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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Taba Talks Halt Over 'Withdrawal' Interpretation 1
Fatah Envoy Explains Withdrawal *[MENA]* 1
Sha'th on Deadlock *[MENA]* 1
Shahaq Confident Talks To Go On *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
Palestinians Urge Rabin-'Arafat Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Sha'th on Israeli Concept of Security *[MENA]* 2
Sha'th: No 'Dead End' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
Sha'th Leaves for Cairo To Brief Musa *[MENA]* 3
Points of Contention Detailed *[HA'ARETZ 3 Nov]* 3
PLO Official on Scope of Cooperation *[HA'ARETZ 3 Nov]* 4
PLO Official on Missing Airman, MIA's *[HA'ARETZ 3 Nov]* 4
Israel Said To Agree To Reunification of Israeli Arabs *[HA'ARETZ 2 Nov]* 5

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Envoy Briefs 'Abd-al-Majid on Talks With UN *[INA]* 5
Arab League Statement Reacts to Turkish 'Threats' *[Damascus Radio]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi: International Forces Needed in Territories *[Algiers VOP]* 6
End to Anti-Palestinian Violence Urged *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
PLO Official, Son Arrested for Spying for Israel *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
Palestinian Construction, Development Body Planned *[AL-RA'Y 3 Nov]* 7
Colombia Grants PLO Diplomatic Status *[Sanaa VOP]* 7
Letters of Jailed Hamas Leader Published *[London AL-WASAT 1-7 Nov]* 7
Al-Rantisi Denies Shaykh Yasin To Take Part in Elections *[SANA]* 9
Hamas Representative Views Gaza-Jericho Accord *[AL-SAFIR 28 Oct]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Prime Minister Denies Negotiations With Kidnappers *[Paris TV]* 11
Exiled Fundamentalist Denies Part in Kidnapping *[Paris LE FIGARO 29 Oct]* 11
Justice Minister Reports 5,000 in Detention *[MAP]* 12
Security Forces Kill 28 Armed Group Members *[Algiers Radio]* 12
'Emergency Meeting' of Army Command Held *[London AL-HAYAH 30 Oct]* 12
European Parliament Recommends Forgiving Debt *[Algiers Radio]* 13

Egypt

Musa on Visit to Israel, Christopher Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Musa on Foreign Policy Goals *[MENA]* 13
AL-AHRAM Notes Role in Israeli-PLO Accord *[MENA]* 13
Al-Baz on Mubarak Talks With Clinton, Mitterrand *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 30 Oct]* 14
Views Peace, Reducing Debt *[MENA]* 14
U.S. 6th Fleet Commander Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* 15

U.S., Egyptian Stances on Peace Assessed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 28 Oct]* 15
Call To Reduce Dependence on U.S. Aid *[AL-WAFD 21 Oct]* 16
Saudi Defense Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit *[MENA]* 17
Turkish Official on Somalia, Cetin Visit *[MENA]* 17
Writer Criticizes Media Handling of Somalia *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 24 Oct]* 18
Mubarak To Meet With al-Qadhdhafi 4 Nov *[AFP]* 18
Mubarak Addresses UNESCO Conference in Paris *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Arms Control Delegation Leaves for Moscow *[MENA]* 19
Assembly To Meet 9 Nov; Mubarak To Speak 10 Nov *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Paper on Gunman's Background, 'Mental Disorder' *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 28 Oct]* 19
Three 'Terrorists' Executed 3 Nov *[MENA]* 20
Man Wanted for Assaults, Bombings Arrested *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Opposition Confirms 300 Killed in Coup Bid *[London AL-WASAT 1-7 Nov]* 20
Libyan Opposition Meets in Algeria *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Oct]* 21
Libyan-Sudanese Integration Committee Meets *[JANA]* 21

Mauritania

UAE Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets President *[Nouakchott Radio]* 22
UAE Minister on Talks *[Nouakchott Radio]* 22

Morocco

'Arafat Meeting With King Hassan 'Positive' *[MAP]* 22
'Arafat Concludes Visit *[Rabat Radio]* 23
UN Representative Speaks on Western Sahara *[MAP]* 23
King Hassan Receives Sahara UN Representative *[Rabat Radio]* 23
PPS Responds Positively to Hassan Proposal *[MAP]* 23

Sudan

Foreign Minister: Dialogue With U.S. Continuing 24
Criticizes U.S. Symposium *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
Awaiting U.S. Envoy's 'Explanation' *[SUNA]* 24
On Political Changes, Gulf Ties *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Oct]* 24
Official Reacts to U.S. Envoy's Statement *[SUNA]* 26
African Efforts on Southern Problem Welcomed *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
Al-Bashir Reaffirms Commitment to Shari'ah *[SUNA]* 26
Officials Comment on 'Limited' Cabinet Reshuffle *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Nov]* 26

Tunisia

Chamber Endorses Bill Stipulating Office Term *[Tunis Radio]* 27
Social Party for Progress Holds Congress *[Tunis TV]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Gulf Opposition Parties Issue Statement *[AL-AHALI 27 Oct]* 29
FRG Deputy Defense Minister Meets GCC Official *[SPA]* 30

Kuwait

'Security Belt' Workers Thwart Iraqi Attack *[KUNA]* 30
'Source' Reacts To Iraqi Proposal on Prisoners *[KUNA]* 30
Prime Minister Meets German Defense Secretary *[Kuwait Radio]* 31
Council of Ministers Agrees To Write Off Debts *[KUNA]* 31

Saudi Arabia

'Senior' Official Denies Displeasure With Bonn *[IRNA]* 31
German Foreign Minister Continues Visit 31
Meets Petroleum Minister *[SPA]* 31
Offers To Mediate With Iran *[Hamburg DPA]* 31
Holds News Conference *[SPA]* 32
Participation in Jerusalem Economic Forum Denied *[SPA]* 32
Preferential Trade Status for PRC Approved *[SPA]* 32
Finance Ministry Data on Exports, Imports *[SPA]* 33

Yemen

Salih Denies 'Real' Political Crisis Exists *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Nov]* 33
Interviewed on 'Political Crisis' *[London AL-HAWADITH 29 Oct]* 34
House of Representatives Discusses 'Crisis' *[Sanaa Radio]* 37
Eritrean President Pays 3-Day Official Visit 37
Arrives in Sanaa *[Sanaa Radio]* 37
Official Talks Begin *[Sanaa Radio]* 37
Meets With Prime Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 38
Makes Statement to Media *[Asmara Radio]* 38
Received by al-Bid in Aden *[Aden Radio]* 39
Cooperation Agreement Signed *[Sanaa Radio]* 39
Ends Official Talks, Departs *[Sanaa Radio]* 39
Joint Statement Issued on Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* 39

IRAQ

Demirel Praise for 'Poised Hammer' Criticized *[INA]* 41
Ministry Denies Electricity Deliberately Cut *[Baghdad Radio]* 41
Kurdistan Free Labor Party Established *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 41
Saddam Receives Cable From Pakistani Premier *[INA]* 41
Paper Views 'Sharp Decline' in Clinton Popularity *[INA]* 42
Civil Defense Defuses Mines, Hand Grenades *[INA]* 42

ISRAEL

Cairo Paper Interviews Peres on Peace Process *[UKTUBAR 31 Oct]* 43
Minister on Talks With Syria, PLO Arrangements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Peres Comments on Taba Talks, Municipal Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Likud Wins Jerusalem, Tel Aviv Municipal Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Likud Submits No-Confidence Motion *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 47
Sharon Raising U.S. Funds To Buy Old City Homes *[DAVAR 3 Nov]* 47
Power Supply to Gaza Neighborhoods Cut Off *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Two 'Wanted' Gaza Men Surrender in Rafah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Ministry Rejects Greenpeace Demand on Methyl Bromide *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Barak Missile 'Successfully' Test-Fired *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 48
Computer Firm Invited to Fair in Bahrain *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 31 Oct]* 48
Turkish Delegation Arrives To Promote Economic Ties *[DAVAR 3 Nov]* 48
Exports to East Bloc Double, Reach $400 Million *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48

JORDAN

'Militant' Attacker Linked to Brooklyn Mosque *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Nov]* 49
Editorial: Rabin Must End Settler Violence *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 2 Nov]* 49

LEBANON

SLA Official Reportedly Executed by Resistance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 51
Execution Report Denied *[Voice of the South]* 51
Speaker Birri: Israel Annexing Lebanese Territory *[VOM]* 51

'Official Silence' on 'Zionist Annexation' Scored *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 51
Gen 'Awn Criticizes 'Political Arrests' *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Oct]* 51
Operations of Resistance, Occupation Detailed 51
Events in South 'Escalating' *[VOL]* 51
Israelis Fire Missiles, Stage Raids *[RFL]* 52
Explosion Near TV Station Reported 2 Nov *[RFL]* 52

SYRIA

Missing Israeli Navigator Said To Be Alive *[Voice of the South]* 53
Military Exercises Called 'Message to Israel' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Oct]* 53
Mubarak Conveys U.S. Views on Peace to al-Asad *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Nov]* 53
Austrian Chancellor Arrives on State Visit *[SANA]* 54
Peace 'Captive' to Israeli Intransigence 54
Futility of 'Separate Deals' Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Settlement Policy 'Obstacle' to Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 55
Israeli Stands Show No Desire for Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 55
Israel Trying to 'Evade' Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 56

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Forces Attack Kabul's Tagab District *[Kabul Radio]* 58
Hekmatyar Offensive Ends in 'Failure' *[Kabul Radio]* 58

India

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Remark on Kashmir *[Delhi International]* 58
Further on Developments at Hazratbal Shrine 59
Court Orders Food Supply *[Delhi Radio]* 59
'Militants' Agree To 'Deal' *[AFP]* 59
Situation Termed 'Peaceful' *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Efforts To End Crisis 'Intensified' *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Further on Agreement To Leave Mosque *[AFP]* 60
Kashmiris 'Will Welcome' Siege End *[AFP]* 60
'Hectic' Efforts Continue *[Delhi Radio]* 61

Iran

Mohtashemi Attacks Hashemi-Rafsanjani Policies *[AFP]* 61
Media Criticized for Western-Influenced Programming *[IRNA]* 61
Judiciary Stresses Need To Fight Corruption *[Tehran TV]* 61
'Chaotic State' of Public Health Care Viewed *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 19 Oct]* 62
New Foreign Currency Policy for Imports Announced *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Further on Hard Currency Procedure *[IRNA]* 63
Nateq-Nuri on 'Full Trust' in Security Forces *[IRNA]* 63
Imam Khomeyni Port Modernization Completed *[Tehran Radio]* 63
High Export Figures From Southern Provinces Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 63
New Governor of Kohkiluye, Boyer Ahmad Appointed *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Khamene'i Scores Supporters of U.S. Dialogue *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Nateq-Nuri: Prospects for U.S. Ties Nonexistent *[Tehran Radio]* 64
U.S. 'Not Ready' for Relations With Tehran *[IRNA]* 64
Public Urged To Join 'Global Arrogance' Rallies *[IRNA]* 66
Daily Encourages 'Anti-U.S. Morale' *[IRNA]* 66
Kazakh Nuclear Expertise Reportedly Sought *[AL-SHIRA' 1 Nov]* 66
Over 37,000 Azerbaijani Refugees Enter Country *[IRNA]* 66
Plight of Refugees Examined *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Relief Aid 'Insufficient' *[IRNA]* 67
Editorial Examines Iranian-German Relations *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 21 Oct]* 68
Iron, Steel Accord Signed With India *[Delhi Radio]* 68

Economic Cooperation Pact Signed With Bangladesh *[IRNA]* 68
Nateq-Nuri, Spanish Envoy Stress Revival of Ties *[Tehran TV]* 69
*HAMSHAHRI's Publication Privileges Revoked *[London KEYHAN 23 Sep]* 69
*Writers' Society Levels Complaints Against KEYHAN *[London KEYHAN 23 Sep]* 69
*KEYHAN Editor in Chief Interrogated Again *[London KEYHAN 30 Sep]* 69
* Reza'i on Conspiracy Against Islamic Republic *[London KEYHAN 7 Oct]* 70
*Ayatollah Montazeri Undergoes Kidney Operation *[London KEYHAN 7 Oct]* 70
* Interior Minister on Bahrain, Tonbs *[London KEYHAN 30 Sep]* 70

Pakistan

'Harsh' U.S. Tactics Seen in Textile Talks *[THE NATION 2 Nov]* 71
Operational Phase of Air Force Exercise Begins *[Islamabad TV]* 71
Former U.S. Envoy Oakley To Lobby for Islamabad *[JANG 31 Oct]* 71

Arab-Israeli Talks

Taba Talks Halt Over 'Withdrawal' Interpretation

Fatah Envoy Explains Withdrawal

NC0211153793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Taba, 2 Nov (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo and member of the Palestinian delegation of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, said that the Palestinian side decided to stop negotiating with the Israeli side of the Committee because of the Israelis' belligerent stand during the negotiations.

In a statement to MENA, he said: We have decided to stop the talks so that the head of each delegation can consult with his leadership about the obstacles that block the negotiations.

He added that the Israeli side yesterday proposed a plan for withdrawal from Gaza that completely contradicts the spirit and letter of the Declaration of Principles the Palestinian and Israeli sides signed in Washington on 13 September.

He said that the Palestinian delegation refuses to sign a document for the reoccupation of Gaza during the Taba negotiations.

Sha'th on Deadlock

NC0211183893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Taba, 2 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation in the Gaza-Jericho Committee negotiations, has said that the delegation decided to suspend the negotiations today to enable the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to hold consultations with their respective leaders in Tunis and Israel in an attempt to find a clear and definite interpretation of the Declaration of Principles agreement which was signed last September and to make it possible to go ahead with the negotiations to complete the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho by 13 December.

In a statement he read to journalists and news agency correspondents in Taba this evening, Dr. Sha'th said that there is a big difference between the Palestinian and Israeli concepts concerning withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He noted that the agreement called for withdrawal and not a redeployment of the Israeli forces.

He added that the agreement also stipulated that withdrawal will take place from the Gaza Strip and not inside it—that is, the withdrawal of the Israeli military forces to positions outside the Strip and not inside it.

Dr. Sha'th said: We spent the whole day in talks with the Israeli delegation about the concept of security and the Israeli withdrawal plan from the Gaza Strip in preparation for later talks about the withdrawal from Jericho when we agree on its area.

He added: We found out that the negotiations on Gaza are facing serious difficulties, due, in our opinion, to the Israeli delegation's failure to adhere to the peace plan and the Declaration of Principles agreement that was signed on 13 September.

He noted that the differences between the Palestinian and Israeli concepts of withdrawal can be resolved by returning to this agreement, which called for the withdrawal of the Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area and not the redeployment of the Israeli forces in Gaza and Jericho.

He said: We realize that there is a specific responsibility for the Israeli forces to protect the settlements. But this is not what the Israeli plans talked about. He explained that the plans that were submitted by the Israeli delegation not only call for security measures in the Gaza Strip, but actually perpetrate the Israeli forces' occupation of the Strip. This is instead of preparing to end this occupation completely as a first step toward achieving peace for which we have signed the Declaration of Principles agreement.

Dr. Sha'th said: I hope that a real review of the agreement will be made in Israel as a first step toward peace and to enable us to pursue more productive negotiations and achieve what we came to Taba for.

Dr. Sha'th earlier held a meeting with General Amnon Shahaq and informed him of the Palestinian delegation's decision to break off the negotiations. The meeting was attended by some members of the two delegations.

Shahaq Confident Talks To Go On

TA0211173093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, explained in a news conference held about an hour ago that it was necessary to halt the talks to enable the delegates to consult decisionmakers in Tunis and Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, in a separate news conference, Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation, stated that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] plan for a redeployment in the Gaza Strip, which was the bone of contention that brought about the suspension of the talks, was only a basis for negotiations. Our military affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports from Taba:

Withdrawal or redeployment in the Gaza Strip—this was the reason for the break-up in the talks today, the second day of the fourth round of talks. Sha'th said he hoped the suspension of the talks would get the message across and would bring about a change in the Israeli position; namely, a total IDF withdrawal from the boundaries of the Gaza Strip.

Shahaq said the Israeli plan provides the optimal solution to the security of the Israelis and the Palestinians; both in terms of the settlements in the Qatif Bloc in the southern Gaza Strip, the outer boundaries of the Gaza Strip, and the movement of Israeli citizens.

[Begin recording] [Shahaq] In my opinion, today we encountered the first obstacle, definitely not the last one. It is not the toughest point to which we will have to find an answer. It is not the only problem we will have to tackle in the future. This is just the first weighty problem we encountered. Therefore, I do not think we should dwell on it. I think we have something to talk about. I do not just think that, but I am sure that there is something to talk about. I am also sure that the talks will continue and that we will reach decisions.

[Semrik] Will we meet the timetable?

[Shahaq] It is not that the timetable is not important—which it is, because it was agreed upon. However, what is more important is not to abide by the timetable, but to reach a good agreement. A bad agreement that meets the timetable would be bad. The right achievement would be a good agreement regardless of whether it is reached before or after schedule. [end recording]

Palestinians Urge Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

TA031107089 3 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Taba talks decided after internal deliberations to transfer requests to pardon 22 Palestinian prisoners sentenced by Israeli civilian courts. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem, however, has learned that Justice Minister David Liba'i decided that since seven are murderers the president cannot be advised to pardon them. The justice minister recommended pardoning nine, and Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who was acting justice minister during Liba'i's absence last week, recommended pardoning five of them. The recommendations are awaiting the president's approval.

The Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks yesterday raised the need for an additional meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in order to bridge the gaps in the positions of the two sides. Their Israeli interlocutors did not respond to the suggestion.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, is leaving for Cairo to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Sha'th will report to Musa on the fourth round of Taba talks and their suspension, and will call on him to raise the controversial issues in his visit to Israel, which begins tomorrow.

Sha'th on Israeli Concept of Security

NC031107359 3 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Taba, 3 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has praised Egypt's role in the Middle East peace process. He said Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel on 4 November aims to urge the Israelis to continue the peace process.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr. Sha'th stressed that Egypt plays an important role in the effort to continue the peace process and always supports the Palestinian right.

Dr. Sha'th said the decision to suspend the negotiations with Israel was made on the orders of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, adding that the Israeli delegation was stunned when it heard about it.

Dr. Sha'th said the Palestinian delegation to the Taba negotiations represents the PLO, so the decision to suspend the talks came in response to an order from the PLO leadership.

He noted that the decision to suspend the talks was conveyed to the Israelis in stages. He said: First, the work of all the subcommittees meeting yesterday was halted and the head of the Israeli delegation Ammon Shahaq was informed of it in a separate meeting with him. He added that the head of the Israeli delegation asked Sha'th the reasons for this action so that he might tell Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He said he spent five hours with Shahaq explaining the reasons.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that the decision to suspend the negotiations is a warning to the Israelis that there is not enough time "to enter into futile and exaggerated discussion" of Israeli security. He said there is only enough time for quick action to implement the agreement that stipulates withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as a first stage.

He added: The problem we faced in the negotiations with the Israelis is not over the details of the withdrawal process or the handing over of authority, but over the Israeli concept of security. He said this concept is the Israelis' permanent complex.

The Palestinian official went on to say that the Israeli experience of the peace process with Egypt proved to them that security becomes available when the intentions for peace are real. The Israelis withdrew from Sinai, removed their settlements, and lived in real peace with Egypt.

He added that the Israelis will not get real security if they exaggerate the security concept during their negotiations with the Palestinians.

Dr. Sha'th then expressed his belief that the Palestinian decision to suspend the negotiations will prove to the Syrians and others who oppose the Washington agreement

that we are serious in the negotiations in defense of the Palestinian stance and for the sake of our rights. We want real peace and will not relinquish our rights, he added.

Sha'th: No 'Dead End'

TA0311075593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Report on interview with Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, by Netan'el Semrik and Eldad Beck on 3 November—recorded]

[Text] [Beck] Good morning from Taba. We asked Nabil Sha'th to resolve the differences between the two versions of the reasons for the suspension of the talks. The Israeli version claims that it was the Palestinians who asked to suspend the talks in order to hold consultations while the Palestinians claim that as long as Israel does not change its concept there is nothing to discuss. Sha'th told us that it is up to the delegations to negotiate the details while it is the leaders who will decide the basic concepts.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] If we have the proper instructions from Mr. Rabin to his delegation to observe the withdrawal agreement in its details, we can sign in 24 hours. The plan that was given to us really amounts to reoccupation, not redeployment, not withdrawal. It is a very limited redeployment, very limited redeployment. [end recording]

[Beck translates the above and continues] We asked Sha'th: When you say it is up to the leaderships to instruct the delegations, do you mean that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will have to meet again?

[Begin recording, in English] [Sha'th] Maybe it is best for them to meet again.

[Semrik] When?

[Sha'th] I think it should be very soon because we don't have too much time. [end recording]

[Beck translates the above and continues] We merely recall that the withdrawal plan is due to start being implemented on 13 December. The Israelis and Palestinians discussed all the details in the fourth round, Sha'th said.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] We are not blowing up these negotiations. We are not saying we are reaching a dead end, we have not said we are withdrawing from the negotiations. I have said we had to suspend to go each of us to consult with his leaders. I think this is legitimate and necessary in order to make progress in the future. [end recording]

Sha'th said the suspension of the negotiations is a clear signal of the danger that if we do not resolve all the conceptual problems we will not be able to conclude the negotiations in the allotted time.

Sha'th Leaves for Cairo To Brief Musa

NC0311074393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Taba, 3 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, and members of his delegation left Taba for Cairo this morning.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is expected to receive Dr. Sha'th later today. Sha'th will brief Musa on the negotiations and the intransigent Israeli stance on withdrawal, a stance that led to halting the negotiations.

Points of Contention Detailed

TA0311113993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 93 p A9

[Report by Gay Bekhor, special correspondent in Taba]

[Excerpts] The Taba talks faced their first test when a serious controversy arose between the sides yesterday. Tensions ran high at the Taba Hilton, and the former cordiality and harmony seemed to have evaporated. [passage omitted]

The controversy between the two sides revolved around three main points arising from the withdrawal plan presented by Yomtov Sami', the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in the Gaza Strip, on 1 November:

—The definition of the term "settlement," which is perceived as mere buildings by the Palestinians but as the extended settlement area including agricultural fields and access roads by the Israelis. This issue has great importance because of its direct impact on the IDF deployment.

—The definition of the IDF's "withdrawal" or "redeployment" in the Gaza Strip: Will the IDF redeploy within the Strip, building there its new outposts, bases, and headquarters as suggested in the Israeli plan, or will it evacuate altogether from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory, dispatching limited troops to guard the settlements, as the Palestinians are demanding?

—The issue of the Gaza Strip roads and the border crossing points: The IDF wants to set up bases along the main traffic axes to safeguard the settlers' security. The Palestinians assert that this solution will perpetuate the occupation.

[The same page of HA'ARETZ carries an interview with "Salih Ra'fat, member of the Palestinian delegation on security" by Gay Bekhor in Taba on 2 November. Asked about the Palestinian-Israeli points of contention, Ra'fat mentions "the issue of the crossing points" presented in the Israeli plan as being "under exclusive Israeli control. They are also demanding full control over the Gaza seashore," he says, while "the Israeli-PLO agreement stipulates that a Palestinian port and port administration would be built there."]

PLO Official on Scope of Cooperation

TA0311114193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 93 p A9

[Interview with Nizar 'Ammar, the official in charge of Palestinian security services, by Gay Bekhor, on 2 November in Taba]

[Excerpt] [Bekhor] From the deliberations in the Security Subcommittee, what do you think will be the scope of cooperation between the Shin Bet and the Palestinian Mukhabarat to be set up in the territories?

['Ammar] There is room for an independent Palestinian security service dealing with several fields and there is room for cooperation between the Israeli Shin Bet and the general security service we will set up to deal with other areas .

[Bekhor] In other words, you are ready for cooperation between the Shin Bet and the Israeli defense establishment and the security service and defense establishment you are to set up under the agreement?

['Ammar] Yes, we are ready for that. There must be coordination between the security services of the two states. We now have joint interests.

[Bekhor] How will that coordination be achieved?

['Ammar] I can tell you that it has already been agreed in the subcommittee to set up a joint "supreme coordinating committee" between the two defense establishments, which will be located in Gaza and will be in a constant state of alert. Its members will be officers or people with similar rank, and if there is a security incident or any problem crops up, contact will be made through that committee, which will go to the site to deal with the matter.

[Bekhor] Have you set up an Israeli-Palestinian war room?

['Ammar] Yes, that was been agreed upon in the Security Subcommittee dealing with police matters. Furthermore, later in the Taba deliberations, we intend to draft and sign a security protocol between the sides, which will decide the issues to be coordinated between the defense establishments, and the security and intelligence services of both sides, as well as the framework for the joint war against drugs, terrorism, etc.

[Bekhor] Does the Palestinian security service intend to act against the Islamic organizations that oppose the peace process?

['Ammar] I will answer in general terms: Anybody who harms general security and Palestinian rule will be dealt with according to the law. The treatment will not be only through means of suppression and beatings, but the root of the Islamic problem from an economic and political viewpoint will be dealt with.

Security will be the last means, after we exhaust all the others, which will be aimed at convincing the opposition to express itself through parliamentary means. On the other hand, we will deal with whoever uses terror within the framework of the security cooperation. [passage omitted]

PLO Official on Missing Airman, MIA's

TA0311092093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 93 p A1

[Report by Gay Bekhor in Taba]

[Text] "Navigator Ron Arad is alive, according to our information, and is being held in Syria and not Iran. The three MIA's from the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub in Lebanon—Zekharya Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Tzvi Feldman—are dead, as far as we know, and their bodies are also being held by Syria." Nizar 'Ammar, who is responsible for Fatah security and has direct responsibility in the PLO for Israeli POW's and MIA's, said in an interview with HA'ARETZ. 'Ammar is a member of the Security Subcommittee at the Taba talks.

'Ammar said yesterday that he dealt with the return of POW's held by Fatah in the Lebanon war of 1982. He also handled the negotiations in Geneva with Attorney Uri Slonim on the return of the body of Israeli Druze soldier Samir al-As'ad.

'Ammar also held contacts with Israelis on the fate of the al-Sultan Ya'qub MIA's. "Zekharya Baumel's father was due to come to me today in Taba to continue the contacts. We know that issue has top priority for Israel and we are trying to help as much as possible," 'Ammar said.

'Ammar denied Ron Arad was transferred to Tehran. "He was first taken from the Shiite Amal movement and transferred to Hizballah, and according to information we have, they took him to Syria, where he is still being held. Yes, he is alive," 'Ammar said.

He said "the Syrians say they took him to Iran, but according to our information, he is alive in Syria, although the precise location is unclear. It is also unreasonable to assume that he was transferred from Syria to Iran without Syrian agreement. If he is being held by Hizballah on Syrian soil, then he is clearly under Syrian control. Definitely, he is no longer being held by Hizballah."

'Ammar disclosed that the Israeli delegation to the talks with Lebanon in Washington asked for details from them, "but the poor Lebanese do not know anything."

'Ammar also disclosed that in the Taba negotiations, he was not asked by the Israelis about Ron Arad's fate. "They asked us only about the MIA's from 1982, and said that if we have any information about them it would be of great help to them."

Referring to the al-Sultan Ya'qub MIA's, 'Ammar said: "To my regret, they are not alive, and their bodies are in Syria." He added: "In 1989, Baumel's father called me in Tunis and said that he wants to come to Tunis to discuss his son's fate. We sent him an official invitation. He

asked Yitzhaq Rabin for permission, and since he is an American citizen, he also asked the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv for permission. With these approvals in hand he came to Tunis. In fact, he came to Tunis twice.

"We took him to Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], and he received him with great warmth and gave him all the aid he could, and told him everything we know. We made it clear to him that those who abducted the three come from the Palestinian al-Sa'iqah organization, which belongs to Syria. They carried out the ambush, and they took the Israeli soldiers to Syria."

'Ammar also said that "Baumel's father wanted to know more: 'Are they alive? Were they wounded?' We promised him that any new bit of information we receive, we will transmit to him immediately."

Israel Said To Agree To Reunification of Israeli Arabs

TA0211132693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Nov 93 p A2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] In the framework of the Multilateral Refugee Affairs Subcommittee—which recently convened in Tunis—Israel has agreed to include East Jerusalem and Israeli Arabs in the framework of the new regulations for family reunification in the territories. This agreement, however, has still not been translated into reality, according to Dr. Salim Tamari, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Refugee Affairs Subcommittee. Dr. Tamari was speaking in a news conference held by the Alternative Information Center in the al-Watani Hotel in East Jerusalem yesterday.

The news conference was also attended by attorney Le'a Zemel, Mikha'el Varshavsky, and Natan Kristal, who wrote a detailed report on the conditions of East Jerusalem's Palestinian residents. During the discussions of the Refugee Affairs Subcommittee in Tunis, the Israeli representatives—including Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin—agreed to grant 2,000 family reunification permits. Together with family members of the applicants the number of persons involved is approximately 5,000 persons. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Envoy Briefs 'Abd-al-Majid on Talks With UN

JN0111142193 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 1, INA—The Iraqi representative to the Arab League (AL) has briefed Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the League, on the outcome of the talks between Iraq and the Security Council Special Committee which were held last month.

In his message to the Secretariat General of the AL, Mr. Nabil Najm stated the Iraqi full cooperation with the United Nations and the Security Council and the assurance of the committee in its report that Iraq has achieved fundamental progress in its negotiations with the committee and offered all needed informations and details according to Resolution 687.

He pointed to the announcement of the committee which said that Iraq had met all its commitments by offering the needed informations and facilities on the biological weapons and the missiles and completely responded with Paragraphs 8, 9/A of the Security Council Resolution 687.

He added that the committee, according to its report stressed that Iraq completely covered Paragraphs 11, 12, 13 of the Resolution and the details and the questions of the committee as well as the lists of the suppliers, and its informations were of credibility and practical.

Arab League Statement Reacts to Turkish 'Threats'

JN0311084393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo—The Arab League has affirmed that Arab states cannot relinquish or be lenient toward substantial, basic issues pertaining to constant Arab rights, particularly Arab water rights, or issues which threaten pan-Arab security. The League said that this had been affirmed by the Arab League Council in its two recent sessions which were held on the foreign ministers' level.

Reacting to the recent Turkish threats to a number of regional states, including Syria, the League said that the recent Turkish threats that have been issued by Turkish officials, are viewed by the League as negative, emotional, and unstudied stands, which in fact threaten the Arab-Turkish relations in general.

The League expected Turkey to reconsider its threats and respect the numerous links between the Arab states and Turkey. The League noted that during the past two decades, these links have been successfully promoted thanks to efforts by both sides. The League explained that the Arab states initiated efforts to improve Arab-Turkish relations, out of respect for the cultural, historical, and religious links and the joint commitments within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization. It affirmed that the Arab states observed and continue to observe with grave concern Turkey's stands against neighboring Arab states and its control of the Tigris and Euphrates waters. The League said that these waters are internationally-shared waters. It indicated that the Turkish control of these waters has gravely harmed the Syrian and Iraqi Arab vital interests and threatens the lives of people in both countries.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi: International Forces Needed in Territories

LD0211183993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Commenting on the settlers' crimes in the occupied territories, brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department made the following statement:

The armed Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, particularly in the areas of Ramallah, al-Birah, and Bir Zayt, have over the past few days been playing havoc, carrying out attacks on the peaceful Palestinians and setting fire to their homes and property, sometimes using weapons, and creating a state of panic among all the Palestinians. All that has been taking place for a few days and is still continuing before the eyes and the ears of the Israeli occupation army.

Such collective attacks by the Israeli settlers against the unarmed Palestinians and against their homes and property constitutes a major stumbling bloc on the road of implementing the Declaration of Principles, creates a poisonous atmosphere that is not in the interest of the talks, and threatens to increase tension on a larger scale.

Therefore, the PLO's request for the presence of international forces to protect our people in the occupied territories becomes an urgent request warranted by the development of the situation so as to facilitate the ongoing talks and guarantee the stability of the situation after the withdrawal of the occupation forces.

The removal of the settlements from the occupied territories and the departure of the settlers have become an issue of special importance on the scale of priorities.

End to Anti-Palestinian Violence Urged

JN0311121193 Samaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Commentary by the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, political editor: "The Settlement Dossier First"]

[Text] The Zionist settlers' attacks on Palestinians as reported by radios and news agencies and from what we see on television screens attract attention which is necessary at this and future stages.

They say that the burning of Palestinians' vehicles in Ramallah, al-Birah, Qalqilyah, and other places, and the violation of their homes and attacks on them and their property is caused by the kidnapping and/or killing of a settler which incurred the wrath of the settlers.

This justification is unacceptable. It is no longer possible to tolerate the baseless justifications which always accompanied the Israeli acts of arrogance throughout the occupation when Israel was the policeman of the region and when the United States accepted any Israeli logic regardless of Israeli highhandedness, lies, and violation of human rights. It is no longer possible to submit to the logic of the past. One Israeli cannot be equal to a thousand Palestinians. The Palestinian people, property and livelihood cannot be violated whenever an incident occurs in which the Palestinians as a people do not commit any wrong. We cannot submit to actions that transcend logic, norms, and laws when the Israeli government assigns the armed Zionist militias the task of punishing the Palestinian at will with the hatred, fanaticism, and prejudice involved.

We must frankly say that the Israeli Government and Army are not so weak as to allow the settlers militias to punish innocent Palestinians in the way the world has seen and in an extremely savage manner without anybody being able to deter or stop them.

Therefore, we tend to believe that the same official authorities are the side which gave the settlers a free hand, allowing them to vent their hatred, which cannot be overlooked or tolerated, given that we are about to implement comprehensive and detailed agreements concerning the greatest peaceful political process in modern times.

Therefore, the Palestinian negotiator should demand a discussion of the dossier of settlements and the two U.S. and Russian cosponsors and others must be alert to the Israeli settlers' actions which the Israeli Government could not or did not want to deter and whose perpetrators it did not want to punish. Peace cannot be realized when barrels of gunpowder are only a few yards away. Everything is set to explode or be detonated.

In such big processes aimed at comprehensive settlements, embarrassment cannot be of any use. Failure to deal with thorny problems will only lead to more complications which could threaten the entire process. Therefore, the negotiators as well as the cosponsors should investigate the moves of settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

PLO Official, Son Arrested for Spying for Israel

JN0311131593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The deputy of Hakam Bal'awi, official in charge of the PLO security department and the Palestinian ambassador in Tunis, was arrested by the Tunisian authorities on 25 October and was charged with spying for Israel. Informed Palestinian sources say that the man, born in al-Safiriyah in the occupied territory, is 44-year-old 'Adnan Ahmad Hasan Yasin.

According to preliminary investigations, Yasin was recruited by the Israeli Mossad in a European capital in 1990. The sources said that the Tunisian security authorities monitored radio signals and informed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of these signals on a regular basis.

The signals were tracked to their source and Yasin was arrested. His son, Hani, was also arrested because he was carrying out the same activities.

Interrogations revealed that Yasin had planted bugging devices in most of the PLO leaders' offices, notably in the office of Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, which is located near 'Arafat's office.

Yasin and his son are still in the custody of the Tunisian authorities pending the completion of the investigation.

A higher Palestinian commission has been formed to investigate this issue, which seems to be highly significant because Yasin had important documents in his possession and he informed the Israelis of the movements of the PLO leaders, including private activities.

Palestinian Construction, Development Body Planned

JN0311110293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian leadership has decided to form a Palestinian Construction and Development Council at the request of countries that will donate aid to the forthcoming self-rule government.

Responsible Palestinian sources told AL-RA'Y that the council will group 10 members headed by Yasir 'Arafat, and will comprise as members Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, and Economic Department Head Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashishibi, who are both members of the Executive Committee. The remaining seven members will be economic experts or rich Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Yasir 'Amr, head of the PLO Education and Higher Education Department, who recently returned from Paris after attending the 27th UNESCO conference, said the UNESCO will finance the formation of a unified data center for Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Colombia Grants PLO Diplomatic Status

JN0211205793 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] The Colombian Government has agreed to grant the PLO diplomatic status in the Colombian capital, following the model of other Latin American states in which the PLO enjoys permanent representation. This took place during a meeting between Palestinian and Colombian delegations held at the Colombian Foreign Ministry. As a result, the Palestinian mission will be granted diplomatic status and will enjoy diplomatic immunity and prestige as a foreign mission.

During the meeting, Colombian Deputy Foreign Minister (Luis Jermo) stressed his country's full support for and happiness over the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington recently.

The meeting was also attended by (Rafael Bird), deputy speaker of the Chamber of Representatives, on the Colombian side, and by Sabri 'Atiyah, the PLO representative in Peru; Dr. Hanna Safiyah, secretary general of the (?Koblak) organization; and Ra'ul Mansur, head of the Palestinian federation, on the Palestinian side.

Letters of Jailed Hamas Leader Published

JN0211170893

[Editorial Report] London AL-WASAT in Arabic, in its 1-7 November issue, publishes on pages 10-17 an approximately 6,000-word report by Jamal Khashuqji, containing four "letters" addressed by jailed Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to his followers. The magazine says Yasin addressed the letters from prison to his followers, and included instructions, answers to questions, as well as details of a meeting he held with an Arab member of the Israeli Knesset. In these letters, he defines his position on the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, but says these letters only express "tentative ideas under study."

The report says the letters were leaked out of the Israeli prison. AL-WASAT publishes the "full text of the letters excluding certain parts that Hamas does not want to make public." Of the four letters, the first contains general guidance and instructions from the shaykh to his followers; the second gives other instructions and includes the full text of a meeting he had with Knesset member Talab al-Sani'; in the third letter, the shaykh analyzes the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its causes and directs his followers on how they should deal with the new reality; and the final letter contains answers to questions leaked to the shaykh from Hamas members seeking his replies.

The first letter, dated 3 October 1993, says in part:

"They are now talking about the question of prisoner release. They attribute this to the blessing of the peace process as if it is one of its fruit. We tell them that the release of our prisoners is the fruit of the intifadah." The letter adds that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was a "losing deal, which fell short of achieving the ambitions and hopes of the struggling Palestinian people. No Palestinian had imagined that a group of the Palestinian sons would make this cheap concession and sellout. We tell those who are competing and running after surrender and who are asking about the alternative, that jihad is the only alternative. Anyone who shirks his responsibilities does not have the right to represent our struggling people and sell their cause." The rest of the letter advises Hamas "strugglers" to obey God and be patient and always be ready for "jihad."

In his second letter, Shaykh Yasin tells his followers that the ideas he is sending them should be reviewed and studied by the movement's "shura councils" to come up with "collective decisions" that meet the present challenges. He says: "No person or group of persons should make a decision concerning our future and the fate of our

movement. Any decision made by the majority will be binding to everybody, whatever that decision is."

The second letter includes the "text" of an interview held in prison by Knesset member Talab al-Sani' with Shaykh Yasin. In the interview, the shaykh says the Palestinian-Israeli agreement overlooks basic issues, such as Jerusalem, the settlements, the right of return, and others. He adds that Hamas will "oppose the agreement by possible civilized methods and will never allow bloody conflict within the ranks of the Palestinian people."

In reply to a question about signing an agreement with Israel, Shaykh Yasin says: "We could sign a truce for 10 or 20 years if Israel withdraws unconditionally from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem to the 1967 borders, and gives the Palestinian people absolute freedom to determine their fate and future."

In his third letter, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin explains his position regarding possible Hamas participation in the elections due to be held in the occupied territories. Commenting on a fatwa [an Islamic legal ruling] made by a clergyman to the effect that it is religiously impermissible for Muslims to take part in elections under occupation, Shaykh Yasin says: "It is the interests of the people and the survival and growth of the Islamic movement that must be taken into account when a decision on the issue is eventually made." Elaborating on this, he wonders: "How can it be permissible for a Muslim to be a janitor at a minister's house, or at the House of Representatives, and impermissible for him to seek to be a minister, or a parliamentarian, where he would be in a better position to promote Islam and its purposes?"

In this letter, Shaykh Yasin addresses Hamas followers, saying: "Undoubtedly, the Palestinian people are currently disturbed and experiencing feelings of dissatisfaction, sadness, and pain over the state of affairs plaguing our Palestinian cause. This state of affairs is marked by dishonor, humiliation, as well as a renunciation of the cause by a group from among our own people who endorsed the recognition of the State of Israel, thus legitimizing all that Israel has usurped of our territories, endowments, holy shrines, and cultural edifice. At best, we view this group of people as a group that, in the course of its efforts to make a judgment, made an erroneous decision. The mistake they made, which will cause calamities and catastrophes, is not binding on us."

Shaykh Yasin relates the history of the PLO since its inception in 1965, noting that its prime objective at the time was to liberate the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1948; that is, Israel proper. This, he notes, is spelled out in the Palestinian National Charter. He adds that the PLO was exposed to numerous massacres at the hands of the frontline Arab states, including the Black September massacre in Jordan in 1970 and the Tall al-Za'tar massacre in Lebanon. The attacks on the PLO culminated in the Palestinian resistance factions' exodus from Lebanon and their displacement in far-flung Arab states, Yasin argues. This caused the Palestine question to turn into a refugee issue. This continued until the inception of the "blessed intifadah unleashed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas," Shaykh Yasin contends. This intifadah, Shaykh Yasin says, moved the conscience of the world public and earned the Palestinians its sympathy and support, which the PLO used to proclaim a Palestinian state that now enjoys the recognition of some 80 world states.

Shaykh Yasin contends that the U.S. peace initiatives promoted by U.S. Secretaries of State George Schultz, James Baker, and Warren Christopher all sought to promote Israeli interests, rather than redress Palestinian grievances. These initiatives led to the convocation of the Madrid peace conference. Yasin says that Israel faced an extremely difficult situation in the Gaza Strip due to the "painful blows" dealt to "Jews" there by the Hamas Movement. When Israel failed to liquidate or neutralize the Hamas Movement, Israel chose to sign an agreement with the PLO to pit the Palestinians against one another, Shaykh Yasin notes.

Elaborating on this, Shaykh Yasin says: "For our part, we would like to reiterate that the Hamas Movement, and its military wing—the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, will not aim their weapons at Palestinian chests. Their weapons will remain aimed at occupation troops and collaborators until Palestinian territory, all Palestinian territory, is liberated." He urges PLO elements, particularly Fatah elements, "not to turn into defenders of Israeli security and Israelis against Hamas and its supporters."

Shaykh Yasin says that the upcoming phase will witness attempts to build a Palestinian community based on secularist foundations. He has doubts that the Palestinian institutions to be built under the Palestinian interim self-rule government would be democratic.

Shaykh Yasin reiterates his position on elections, saying: "Nowadays, the issue of the elections due to be held in the occupied territories is being debated by the Palestinians. Islamists are divided over participation in these elections. However, I believe—and it is only God who knows best—that participation in these elections would be the preferable option if the Council meant to be elected would have legislative powers. The rationale for this position is that we are opposed to ongoing developments on the street. Why then should we fail to express our opposition within the legislative authority that will claim to have the right to represent the Palestinian people, enact laws and regulations at will, fight Islam and Muslims, and stifle Islamic activities and Islamic institutions, etc. Additionally, such participation would underscore the strength of Islamic groups in the arena and prevent others from enjoying unilateral control over the decisionmaking process."

In his fourth letter, Shaykh Yasin provides answers to questions leaked to him in prison from Hamas members. Answering a question on how Hamas must respond if the Palestinian self-government authority decides to control

Islamic institutions and mosques, Shaykh Yasin says: "We have expressed our opposition to autonomy through civilized methods and nonviolence. Hence, we are a (legitimate) opposition group that should have the right to control its own institutions, which must be spared any encroachment. Should any attempts at encroachment be made on these institutions, I believe that we should not acquiesce to this; that is, this should be resisted firmly."

In reply to a question on the Hamas Movement's alliance with the Damascus-based Palestinian factions, which are opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Shaykh Yasin says that this alliance is not homogeneous, and that the factions making up this alliance could turn against Hamas once they reconcile themselves with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Consequently, he argues, the Islamic movement should not place its destiny in the hands of this alliance. "However, this should not preclude prudent tactics with it," Shaykh Yasin concludes.

Al-Rantisi Denies Shaykh Yasin To Take Part in Elections

JN0311101893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 3 Nov (SANA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has highly evaluated the Syrian Arab position, stressing that this position illuminates the road for our Arab nation.

In an interview with TISHRIN, published today, al-Rantisi said Syria's position will rally the entire Arab people behind it.

The official spokesman for the Palestinian deportees criticized anew the Gaza-Jericho agreement, stressing that it is a failed plan, and adding that the signs of failure have started to surface in Taba as it becomes clear that Israel has not given, and will not give anything. He said the negotiations are destined to failure.

Al-Rantisi emphasized that the self-rule elections are rejected, and denied that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [imprisoned Hamas spiritual leader] has called for participation in these elections, saying all that was attributed to Shaykh Yasin are sheer lies.

He emphasized that the intifadah in the occupied territories has recently escalated targeting Israeli soldiers. This shows that the Palestinian people do not trust what 'Arafat says.

Al-Rantisi strongly denounced the calls for confederation with Israel, saying these calls are very dangerous because they give Israel the right to deal with everything, even the Palestinian human being.

Al-Rantisi stressed the importance of continuing the Arab boycott of Israel, and called for rejecting any economic cooperation with it.

Hamas Representative Views Gaza-Jericho Accord

NC0211150793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 12

[Interview with Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal by Muna Sukkariyah in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Sukkariyah] Tell us about your recent meeting as Hamas representative with the 10 Palestinian factions.

[Nazzal] The meeting was held to continue the dialogue with the 10 factions on the basic issue on which agreement must be reached. A formula for a Palestinian national and Islamic alliance was submitted as an umbrella embracing the Palestinian forces that reject the Gaza-Jericho agreement. This dialogue will be continued to reach agreement on the details and on the mechanism necessary to achieve this alliance.

[Sukkariyah] What is the viewpoint you submitted as a formula for this alliance?

[Nazzal] We submitted a political program to gather all these forces. We also submitted an administrative structure for this alliance.

[Sukkariyah] What about the plan's main points?

[Nazzal] They discuss the need to adhere to the Palestinian National Covenant, which says that Palestine is an indivisible unit extending from the [Mediterranean] Sea to the [Jordan] River. The Gaza-Jericho agreement is null and void. The Palestinian issue is an Arab and Islamic issue. The liberation of Palestine is the responsibility of the Arab and Islamic nation. The PLO is a national achievement that must be preserved, but its institutions must be rebuilt on a democratic basis.

[Sukkariyah] How can this be done?

[Nazzal] This is a technical, not political, issue.

[Sukkariyan] What does it take to acquire a position in these institutions?

[Nazzal] There is another party that says it is the PLO. So, there will be a dispute between the two parties.

[Sukkariyah] Will it be a democratic dispute?

[Nazzal] This is natural. It is a dispute over legality.

[Sukkariyah] Might not this lead to two organizations?

[Nazzal] We have postponed the announcement of a new organization. We said this is premature. But there is no objection to a transitional step to rebuild the PLO on new bases.

[Sukkariyah] What is your preferred name for this new alliance?

[Nazzal] It is the formula of a national and Islamic alliance based on the Palestine National Covenant.

[Sukkariyah] Will this involve the formation of a new PLO?

[Nazzal] There is a view that calls for establishing a new PLO. Hamas does not support this view. We favor the formula of a Palestinian national and Islamic alliance as a transitional step toward aborting the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and rebuilding the PLO institutions.

[Sukkariyah] It seems it is a politically calm step by Hamas. Is it?

[Nazzal] We believe we must not burn all bridges. We also believe that our political stance and behavior must not be spontaneous. They must be part of a studied strategy. We believe this phase requires forming this alliance.

[Sukkariyah] Are you convinced of this alliance's confrontation capability?

[Nazzal] We must confront this plan and foil it using every available means.

[Sukkariyah] Including the military?

[Nazzal] Although we seek to undermine the plan on the Palestinian scene, we will certainly eschew any armed clash with the self-rule administration. Our confrontation with the occupation will, however, continue through military as well as non-military means.

[Sukkariyah] Will Hamas take part in the self-rule elections in Gaza and Jericho?

[Nazzal] We have agreed to boycott the administrative self-rule.

[Sukkariyah] Is this an irreversible decision?

[Nazzal] This is a final and irreversible decision.

[Sukkariyah] What do you have to say about the release of Palestinian detainees in the prisons of the occupation?

[Nazzal] This is an attempt to sweeten the agreement, give it favorable media coverage, and make the PLO look sharp. It is a process that is taking place at the expense of a number of basic issues. For one thing, why have security detainees been excluded?

[Sukkariyah] Will Hamas coordination be confined to the 10 [dissident Palestinian] groups or will you reach out to other Islamic movements?

[Nazzal] We are working on both fronts. The Palestinian arena matters a lot to us. At the same time, we want to contact Islamic movements in the Arabic and Islamic homeland and coordinate with them in resisting the normalization, but this is still in the pipeline.

[Sukkariyah] Will you issue religious edicts to fight the normalization?

[Nazzal] We believe that the matter does not call for religious edicts. The facts are unambiguously clear. Normalization is a danger to the nation and its existence. Therefore, there is no need for edicts.

[Sukkariyah] What about your relations with Iran?

[Nazzal] They are part of our relations with Arab and Islamic countries. We want to communicate with all those Arab and Islamic governments who share with us the same interest in the Palestinian issue.

[Sukkariyah] How do you assess the political role of Islamic movements in the Arab world?

[Nazzal] These movements spearhead national action in most Arab and Islamic countries. There is no question that some of these movements face attempts to liquidate and undermine them. There is a campaign against the Islamic tide. This reflects negatively on the construction and development process in Arab and Islamic societies. We see a need to open a dialogue between these movements and the Arab governments in order to seek some common ground.

[Sukkariyah] What kind of dialogue would you accept?

[Nazzal] We look favorably upon any dialogue that can end the bloodletting under way in more than one Arab country. What is happening is certainly against the interests of our people and cause.

[Sukkariyah] How will you participate in the Jordanian elections next month?

[Nazzal] We in Hamas have nothing to do with what goes on in the Jordanian arena. It is none of our concern. Our focus is on the occupied Palestinian territories.

[Sukkariyah] Do you have an idea about the number of Palestinians who will participate in the Jordanian elections?

[Nazzal] I have neither information nor estimates.

Algeria

Prime Minister Denies Negotiations With Kidnappers

LD0211201293 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] When interviewed on the 1920 hours bulletin of FR3 TV a while ago, Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek said neither negotiations nor talks took place with the kidnappers of the three French consulate staff. He said they were members of the Armed Islamic Group, who had kidnapped and killed two other French nationals a few weeks ago.

Exiled Fundamentalist Denies Part in Kidnapping

PM0111141093 Paris LE FIGARO in French 29 Oct 93 p 32

[Interview with Djaffar El Houari, chairman of Algerian Brotherhood in France, by Thierry Oberle in Paris; date not given]

[Text] Djaffar El Houari, the chairman of the Algerian Brotherhood in France, the legal front organization associated with the former Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in France, is—according to a rumor on the streets of Algiers—involved in the disappearance of the three Frenchmen, employees of the French consulate, kidnapped in Algiers on Sunday. The French intelligence service is skeptical about this accusation and it refers to a "possible attempt at disinformation." Djaffar El Houari, who is 37 years old, a former FIS candidate in the December 1991 parliamentary elections in Bouafarik, left his country after the annulment of the elections by the Algerian authorities. He is a student of statistics and mathematics at Paris-VI University and lives with his family in a Paris suburb.

[Oberle] What are your links with the Armed Islamic Group, the terrorist group suspected of being behind the abduction of the three Frenchmen?

[El Houari] Some French press organs claim that I lead this group from abroad. This is both nonsense and an unacceptable lie. I have not set foot in Algeria for two years, and there is no evidence to corroborate this nonsense. I therefore intend to submit a complaint for slander, because I am now in physical danger. The accusations made against me stem from an article in LIBERTE, an Algerian daily close to the government. The newspaper said, about 10 days ago, that several Armed Islamic Group activists attended a meeting in April 1992 held by the Algerian Brotherhood in France in the Paris region. The meeting did take place. But I do not know these so-called terrorists. In France, nobody has ever heard of these people. If sections of the French media continue to report unfounded rumors from Algiers, I will soon be accused each time a cat dies in the suburbs.

[Oberle] Do you approve of this taking of hostages?

[El Houari] The FIS is opposed to attacks on innocent people. The three Frenchmen who have disappeared are ordinary workers. They have nothing to do with Algerian events and must be released. The FIS leaders imprisoned in our country or in exile have never asked the members to take hostages. It is not in our interests to do so. Our problem is not the West but the military junta in power in Algiers.

[Oberle] Who do you think is behind the kidnapping?

[El Houari] I doubt the authenticity of the communique attributed to the Armed Islamic Group. However, the lead of a commando action by the military security service cannot be ruled out. Algiers is a city guarded by the security forces in which it is very difficult to move about. Such an abduction requires very sophisticated logistics. The military security may have staged it to prompt the West to adopt a firm stance against the Islamic movement. The other hypothesis is that of an isolated action by uncontrolled elements. The fact remains that if things turn out badly, the military junta and the French Government will bear a heavy responsibility. The recent statements by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, accusing the Algerian people of terrorism and fundamentalism, are a diplomatic error. The Algerian voters do not appreciate people interfering in their internal affairs. They have the feeling that Alain Juppe is against the Algerian people.

[Oberle] Are you in favor of armed struggle?

[El Houari] The present government is not legitimate: It is not representative of our country's population and has destroyed all the republican institutions. Following the halting of the democratic process, the people have used all peaceful means to combat the junta. In reply there has been an unprecedented wave of repression. The leaders have been thrown into prison. We have a long list of people who have died under torture. State terrorism has pushed the population to take up arms against those who call for the eradication of the Islamic movement. Our people are not inclined toward extremism, but they had no choice. We support that struggle. The war is engendering economic, social, and political losses, but at present it seems to be the only way of putting an end to a dictatorship represented by a handful of generals.

[Oberle] A member of the "national dialogue commission" contacted one of your leaders currently in detention in Algiers on Wednesday. How do you interpret that gesture?

[El Houari] The government is not in favor of dialogue. To open a discussion, there needs to be some preliminary, a small gesture of good will. Almost 1,000 political prisoners are held in camps in the Sahara. Why are the authorities not releasing them? When will they end the summary executions? These are the real questions.

[Oberle] Is France likely to suffer terrorist outrages?

[El Houari] There is a risk because the feeling of exasperation is growing among the uncontrolled elements based in Algeria. It is possible that these people might wish to strike at targets in France, such as Algerian consular services or symbols of French authority. Somebody living in France could also act on his own initiative. These are things which we condemn but which may happen because people are exasperated. But responsibility for an act of this type will not rest with the FIS or the Algerian Brotherhood in France.

[Oberle] Your publication LE CRITERE was banned last summer by [French] Interior Minister Charles Pasqua. What is your reaction?

[El Houari] LE CRITERE was banned following a request made by the Algerian foreign minister during his visit to Paris last June. This measure is an attack on freedom of speech. We have never called on people to disturb law and order. We have never waged an anti-French or anti-Western campaign. Our only mistake was to have criticized Alain Juppe in our last issue.

[Oberle] LE CRITERE was also justifying terrorist actions....

[El Houari] Our sole objective is to defend our plan for Algerian society. We are accused of having given news of the front. Indeed, we reported and described commando raids. This information work was largely identical to that of the other media. The only difference was that we replaced the adjective "terrorist" by the term "mujahidin," which was more appropriate to the situation. Can we be blamed for that?

[Oberle] What is your status?

[El Houari] I have a residence permit as a student. The militants who live on French soil are doing so legally. Most of them came to France before the putsch. They are also studying or working legally. None of them, to the best of my knowledge obtained political asylum, although we are all refugees.

Justice Minister Reports 5,000 in Detention

LD0211162193 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov. 2 (MAP)—"Security centers" created in southern Algeria within the state of emergency enforced last February were all shut down, and all prisoners' cases were submitted to court, said Algerian Minister of Justice Mohamed Teguia at a news conference.

There are no more than 5000 people detained for "violence acts" and not 12,000 as mistakenly reported by some organizations, added the official. Some 2,000 detainees were to be granted a pardon Monday at the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the liberation war. The decision does not cover persons condemned for violence acts or serious crimes.

Security Forces Kill 28 Armed Group Members

LD0211154893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] The security services today said that 28 members of armed groups have been killed over the last four days in different places in the east and center of the country.

A security services' statement indicated that 17 members of these armed groups were killed two nights ago in Djebel Bouzegza in Lakhdaria during a search operation carried out by the security services and recovered hunting rifles and automatic pistols.

'Emergency Meeting' of Army Command Held

PM0211124893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Army Command Discusses Transitional Phase Requirements After Dialogue"]

[Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has learned that an emergency meeting of the Algerian Army's higher command was held this week over a 3-day period under Defense Minister General Lamine. It was devoted to discussing three questions: Making changes in the commands of the military zones on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the 1 November revolution, the results expected from the proceedings of the "National Dialogue Committee," and management of the transitional phase.

According to a source close to the command, changes which will affect commands of the military zones fall within the framework of "rejuvenation" and are designed to ensure the "harmony" about which the defense minister spoke before, when he stressed that there were no "hawks and doves" in the Army command. Some of the participating leaders favor putting the zones under commanders holding the rank of "colonel."

With regard to the second pivot, the Army command supports dialogue as "the last card for national and democratic forces" in their search for a way out of the crisis. That is, if there is a "surprise" success, represented in the formula in which a wing from the dissolved "Salvation Front" may take part.

However, well-informed sources have emphasized that the Salvation Front's participation has still not been settled.

This factor is arousing numerous disagreements inside the Army's general command and among members of the National Dialogue Committee. At the level of the military command, there is still a conflict between those advocating "all-out confrontation" and those advocating dialogue and reconciliation. It seems that the figures to be appointed in the zones will show a preponderance of one of the two tendencies.

If the "surprise success" does not take place in the "national seminar," the dialogue committee—by virtue of the powers granted to it—can call the Army to lead the transitional phase, hence granting the transitional phase a kind of "legitimacy" as a "position which almost represents a consensus among the key forces in political life." As for the command's view of the "transitional phase," it is summed up in announcing presidential elections within a period not exceeding two years, although some parties demand that it be one year.

However, there are some "differences" over the possible date for the parliamentary elections. Some believe they should coincide with the presidential elections. Others believe that the presidential elections are more important, because they put an end to the so-called "lack of legitimacy."

European Parliament Recommends Forgiving Debt

LD3010114093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The European Parliament two days ago in Strasbourg recommended that Algeria's debts to the European Community estimated at well over $6.5 billion be canceled. The European Parliament believes that canceling these debts will be a contribution toward economic reforms in Algeria. The European Parliament members at the same session urged the strengthening of cooperation between the European Community and the Mediterranean countries.

Egypt

Musa on Visit to Israel, Christopher Visit

NC0211162593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will pay a working visit to Israel on Thursday [4 November], during which he will deliver a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from President Husni Mubarak. Musa will also hold talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as part of Egypt's efforts to advance the peace process and overcome the obstacles on the Syrian-Israeli track.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt attaches great importance to progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to achieve a balance with the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. He said that there are signs of optimism on the Syrian track, affirming that Egypt sees no justification for not actively moving forward on the Syrian-Israeli track and on the basis of the principle of land for peace.

Musa added that within the framework of Egypt's efforts and contacts to advance the peace process, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the Middle East after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington. Musa also said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will soon visit Egypt within the framework of Egyptian-Palestinian consultations. The date of this visit has not been decided.

Answering a question about Burundi's request for Egyptian and Moroccan forces, the foreign minister said that Egypt has not made a decision in this regard because the situation there is still unclear. He said that Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant foreign minister and President Mubarak's special envoy to Burundi, has met with a number of officials and participated in the summit held in Rwanda to discuss this issue. He said no decision will be made before Burundi's demands and the conditions there are discussed.

Musa said that he will participate in the meeting of the African foreign ministers in Addis Ababa on 17 November to discuss the implementation of the resolution to resolve African disputes by peaceful means, which was adopted by the African summit conference in Cairo last June.

Musa on Foreign Policy Goals

NC0111165093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with a delegation of Egyptian businessmen from various sectors of industry, business, and contracting.

The foreign minister explained to the delegation the scope of changes the region is going through in light of the progress in the peace process, which is following firm principles that Egypt adheres to. These principles are the land-for-peace formula, full implementation of the international resolutions, and the effects of this on the future of the region.

'Amr Musa expressed the concern of the Foreign Ministry and its departments to give all forms of support to Egypt's economy and the private sector.

The meeting also discussed the summit of 15 countries slated to convene in New Delhi in December and the role of the private sector in bolstering the economies of the Third World countries.

The foreign minister affirmed the importance of expanding dealings between countries in order to open the African market to new products and institutions.

AL-AHRAM Notes Role in Israeli-PLO Accord

NC0311055393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2123 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper affirms that over the last two years Egypt has been able to assert its role in making Israel's agreement with the PLO a success and that the agreement is regarded as a great accomplishment because the Palestinian cause is the core of the Middle East problem.

In its editorial tomorrow, Wednesday, the paper notes that Egypt is still sponsoring this agreement to enable the two sides to press ahead with the full and correct implementation of all the accord's provisions.

The paper points out that Egypt's concern now focuses on the need to make similar progress on the Syrian-Israeli track to achieve a comprehensive settlement. The paper emphasizes that the Egyptian stand has been praised by all international circles.

Al-Baz on Mubarak Talks With Clinton, Mitterrand

NC0211200293 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Oct 93 p 6

[Report from Paris by AKHBAR AL-YAWM correspondent]

[Text] Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has announced in statements to AKHBAR AL-YAWM that President Mubarak's talks in Washington revealed that the U.S. Administration understands the need for progress on the Syrian-Israeli track without delay. He said the U.S. views on this issue bolster the U.S. commitment and provide greater opportunities for progress on this track.

Dr. al-Baz said contacts will soon be made with the Israeli Government, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. During the next few days, Cairo will send a special envoy to Israel to give strong momentum to the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace talks.

On whether the president had raised the Lockerbie issue with U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Francois Mitterrand, al-Baz said the president raised this subject with the two presidents because it is one of the important problems in the region. We cannot ignore these issues. He noted that President Mubarak spoke to the two presidents about what the situation warrants. We hope the situation does not escalate any further, he added, because escalation means increasing the tension in the region, which is not in the interest of the countries in, or even outside, the region.

Regarding the issue of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people, he said President Mubarak discussed with the two presidents the situation in the Gulf region as a whole. We greatly regret the suffering the Iraqi people are going through. We hope that positive circumstances can be achieved which will lead to lifting the sanctions of the people so that they can once again carry out their role as supporters of pan-Arab security. Then, the image of Iraq as a source of threat to the neighboring Arab countries will end.

On his evaluation of relations with Sudan, Usamah al-Baz said: As regards Sudan, one element governs relations with that country. This is that there are crucial relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people. We will not allow anything to destroy this relationship.

If the Sudanese Government wants to establish a correct and sound relationship with Egypt, then Egypt welcomes that. This, however, will be judged by acts, not words.

On the situation with Iran, he said: If Iran is ready to change its policy, refrain from using pressure and threats, and address the Arabs in general proceeding from this perspective, the Arab countries could then discuss changing their views on Iran. If Iran changes its policies and practices, we would welcome that. However, unfortunately, current indications show that the Iranian policy will not change. We make our judgment on the basis of the policies the state follows, not on the basis of prophesies which have no grain of truth to them.

Iran should not interfere in Arab affairs. It has not been appointed trustee of the Islamic movement. In addition, it should not use the issue of Jerusalem as a bargaining chip.

Views Peace, Reducing Debt

NC0311072893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2209 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed that President Mubarak's recent tour of the United States, France, and Syria succeeded in emphasizing the peace process on every (?track) on the grounds that it is basically a process of a comprehensive peace that should not be confined to one track.

On Egyptian television tonight, he said: We encourage Syria and Israel to move toward peace, because when there is movement on the various tracks, things improve. He said the problem with Jordan and Lebanon is much smaller than that on the Syrian track.

He said there is no sign that a meeting will be held between President al-Asad and Yitzhaq Rabin, because Syria is not clear about Israel's intentions concerning the principle of a complete withdrawal from the Golan in a reasonable period and the stages of implementing withdrawal. He added that Israel realizes no peace accord will be signed with Syria without this.

Al-Baz said: Our impression after the Washington talks is that the United States now realizes more the importance of progress on the Syrian track. Talk that Egypt's role will diminish after peace has been achieved is wrong; it can only be uttered by an ignorant person or for a particular purpose. Egypt has had a role in the region for thousands of years, a role that has intensified in modern times. This role existed before the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict emerged. Other problems will emerge and Egypt will have an important role in them, because what defines the role are considerations relating to heritage, history, population, and culture and the military role.

He added that Egypt's role after the peace process is complete will be to maintain stability and balance in the region.

On reducing Egypt's debts, al-Baz said: Next year, we will be exempted from the third portion, 20 percent of the debt, and thus we will have dropped 50 percent of the foreign debt.

U.S. 6th Fleet Commander Arrives for Visit

NC3010081193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—U.S. 6th Fleet Commander General Joseph Lopez arrived in Cairo this evening from Naples aboard a private plane for a visit to Egypt that will last several days. As soon as he arrived, he left for Alexandria, where he will hold talks with the commanders of the Egyptian Navy.

U.S., Egyptian Stances on Peace Assessed

NC0211110293 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Oct 93 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mahfuz al-Ansari in Washington: "Mubarak and Clinton—Points of Agreement and Difference"]

[Excerpts] There were no surprises in President Mubarak's visit to the United States. And there were no differences or obstacles in the way of continuing cooperation, understanding, and agreement.

Actions, analyses, and views on how to deal with, handle, treat, and address the proposed issues were not identical or integrated.

The meeting did not take place out of the desire of one party alone without the other party needing such a meeting.

The Mubarak-Clinton summit in Washington stemmed from a joint desire and effort at a time both Cairo and Washington believe to be important for Egypt and the United States, for peace, stability and security, for the Middle East, and for the rest of the world.

Proceeding from this, the Egyptian evaluation coincided with that of the United States on the need to meet and when to do so. [passage omitted]

Defining the topics of discussion and deliberation stemmed from the two countries' mutual respect and appreciation and the topics revolved around and jelled on the following three issues:

Peace and cooperation among the parties to the conflict and confrontation, a conflict that has continued between the Arabs and the Israelis for 50 years.

Stability and growth for the region and its surrounding areas, the Middle East with its African and Asian regions, Arab and Islamic, and otherwise.

Bilateral Egyptian-U.S. relations, be they economic, political, strategic, or security, including all the details and subissues that may emerge.

Things were very clear in the Arab-Israeli peace cause. The participants, their roles, and all the results and achievements represented tangible reality on the ground. [passage omitted]

Opinions differed and efforts varied over the Syrian-Israeli front.

On this point, Egyptian thinking differed from American. This is where the Egyptian stance and evaluation of the situation differed from the U.S. analysis and position.

Based on his knowledge of the land, the region, and the people, President Mubarak explained in detail, using strong facts to back his explanation, that concerted action should be taken quickly to realize some progress on the Syrian-Israeli front. He added that this means security—the safety valve that protects the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement.

The American views, evaluation, and analyses differed from and were the opposite of this.

President Clinton and his administration's view was that a big portion of the agreement between Rabin and 'Arafat was too big for the Israeli public to swallow and digest easily.

The Israeli body, mind, mood, and people need time to swallow the meal and accept it. They maintain that another mouthful could irritate the Israeli stomach, leading it to reject both old and new.

The U.S. view calculates the peace guarantees in a gradual manner through building new confidence measures that encourage the Israelis to accept and digest the agreement. The idea was to take new steps throughout the Arab milieu that open the road to Israeli acceptance, pave the way for cooperation, and remove all the old taboos.

This is why they spoke about Arab-Israeli cooperation and ending the Arab boycott.

The Americans showed an interest in the positive signs in this direction, which did actually take shape.

Examples are the West's reception of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco. There was also the meeting at the White House between Hashemite Prince Hasan Bin Talal, King Husayn's brother, and Shim'on Peres in the presence of President Clinton. And a meeting took place between Peres and the Qatari foreign minister in New York. Of course, there was the big meeting President Mubarak organized and participated in involving 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo.

Some believe this American stance reflects some American bias toward the Israeli position. It also reflects pressure on Syria to tame it and clip its wings.

But the reality is something else, even if there are small objectives and games. My reason for saying this is that clearing the hotbeds of tension and the causes of regional and international conflict has become one of the constituents of the post-Cold War state.

My reason for saying this is that all parties are ready to move from the policy of confrontation to dialogue, understanding, and cooperation, even in the absence of parity and balance in relations between the powers, between parties that have nothing, but the desire to cling to rights, and other parties that have all the elements of power and its trappings, military or otherwise.

But the fresh aspect in the imbalanced formula is that everyone is tired of the old formula. The rejectionists are fed up of rejection and its results. The powerful have gone beyond using force and are incapable of using it any longer. Their weapons and tools have become obsolete and useless, like the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

Therefore, and only for this reason, we need to evaluate the American stance—despite its differences from the Egyptian positions and analyses—based on its stemming from concern for the peace process, not from the perspective of taming or neglecting Syria.

I believe that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, and Syria, supports this opinion. Further, the arrangements for a meeting between al-Asad and Clinton also support this opinion. [passage omitted]

Call To Reduce Dependence on U.S. Aid

NC2710160793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi: "Breaking Free From Foreign Aid"—punctuation as published]

[Text] I believe the issue of U.S. aid to Egypt will top the agenda of the talks between President Husni Mubarak and President Clinton during Mubarak's visit to Washington on Saturday. The prevailing trend in U.S. Congressional circles leans toward reducing U.S. aid to various countries, including Egypt, which occupies second place after Israel on the aid list. President Mubarak referred to these expectations in an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Undoubtedly, there are domestic reasons and circumstances that make the U.S. Administration think of reducing this aid. Large sectors of U.S. society live in substandard conditions, which they call shantytowns. Slums are the equivalent expression in our country. This issue was one of the main points of contention between Bush and Clinton during the election campaign last year. Clinton's victory was a triumph for giving internal interests priority over foreign ones. But... this is not the only reason for the trend toward reducing foreign aid. There is pressure inside Congress to limit this aid to countries that have democratic systems.

We cannot blame the U.S. Administration for laying down conditions and rules for giving or withholding aid. But it is our right to discuss the U.S. decisionmaker, because U.S. interests—the ultimate objective of this aid—are not unconnected with the interests of the countries it deals with. We believe that U.S. interference in these countries' internal affairs has become very overt. This interference is not conducted under tables or behind curtains as in the past. There are innumerable examples of this, the last of which was the U.S. Administration's stance on events in Russia. The Clinton administration did not shrink from declaring its support for President Yeltsin in his struggle with his adversaries. And then there was the U.S. fleet cruising off Haiti's coast to restore the deposed president (.....). All these battles use aid as a potent weapon to implement U.S. policy. What are these plans and what are their limits?

The prevailing view among the pressure groups inside Congress is that aid should not go to countries ruled by undemocratic systems. Here, the question arises: What are the criteria for democracy from the viewpoint of the U.S. taxpayer? Is it enough to set up parliamentary and local councils and nongovernmental press in a country to make it worthy of receiving this aid? Or must these councils be credible and express a free popular will?

Should a country present a certificate of good conduct and show that there are no prisons, detention camps, or torture? Or should human rights be a principal of its dealings with its citizens?

These criteria are as complicated as they are full of loopholes. The U.S. Administration took Yeltsin's side and let parliament down, even although it was elected by the people (!!). The issue looks as if the criteria of democracy do not form a solid constant, but are so flexible as to make things likely to be interpreted in the way the U.S. decisionmaker wants. If it wants, it can be pleased with a regime even if parliament is demolished. If it wants, it can be angry with a state even if there is a parliament and an opposition—like Iran (!!).

This is not an immovable rule to which you can resort. But what concerns us is Egypt and the possible domestic reaction in light of developments abroad.

U.S. aid to Egypt is $2.3 billion a year, no small amount that we could easily say we might do without overnight. Withholding this assistance will certainly harm the existing system in Egypt in favor of the powers that seek to destroy and dismantle it.

Is this the ultimate goal of the U.S. Government? And has it considered these probabilities?

We cannot give a definite answer to this question, because there can be two equally valid answers. All we can discuss is our responsibility as Egyptians concerning these possibilities. Let us expect the worst.

First, we say that foreign assistance is a national issue that should preoccupy all citizens and parties, since it involves

Egypt's political and economic future. It can lead to a significant democratic breakthrough. Equally, it can lead to a horrible setback that can take us back to the darkness of dictatorship, backwardedness, and depression.

The two possibilities are equal. Which one should we choose to seek?

No Egyptian who is loyal to his homeland and careful about protecting its future, safety, and social security hides his bias toward the first option, that is, the democratic course that gives Egypt its status among democratic states that respect the will of their people and the human rights of their sons. But, this option has a price to be paid. The downpayment is to abandon the existing political structure or rather topple it to pave the way for a sound democratic life based on sincerity, truth, and honesty. Yes, there must be a sound parliamentary life free of deception and fraud. There must also be a modern constitution that responds to the people's hopes for freedom, equality, and justice.

We must pave the way for the possibility of shrinking or even canceling U.S. aid in response to the wishes of the American taxpayer. This means Egypt must become a beehive of hard work, productivity, and serious effort. We must use every inch of Egyptian land, all the energies of Egyptian youth, and every penny of every Egyptian inside and outside Egypt. Egypt is not poor, as they imagine. Egypt is rich with human, material, scientific, and cultural resources. The best example of this can be found in the vast number of Egyptian scientists abroad, the enormous funds held by Egyptian expatriates, and the ease with which Egyptian funds are being depleted through corruption and deviousness. Once true democracy is established, we can block these holes, protect Egyptian funds against corruption and manipulation, and become like the Asian tigers who took off at rocket speed toward the industrial world.

If what we are saying is a fantasy, then welcome to the fantasies that become realities through the persevering, serious, and sincere Egyptian sons. We should not lose hope in the face of crises. The Egyptians have a great record of fighting challenges. Seventy years ago, Sa'd Zaghlul called on Egyptians from his exile to boycott foreign commodities, banks, and shops. The Egyptians responded to his call until the occupiers had to submit to the will of the steadfast and patient people.

We have a record of handling ordeals and difficulties. This requires mutual confidence between the ruler and the ruled, the confidence that reassures the citizens that the ruler respects their will and that reassures the ruler that the people will not turn against him.

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit

NC0311112193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1058 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, arrived in Cairo today on a five-day visit. He was received at the airport by Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, and Armed Forces senior commanders.

The Saudi minister will hold talks with his Egyptian counterpart on military cooperation. He will also visit military factories and positions.

Marshal Tantawi visited Saudi Arabia earlier this year and held talks with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on strengthening military ties.

Turkish Official on Somalia, Cetin Visit

NC3010190193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Turkish Assistant Foreign Minister Biljin Onan has said that he is visiting Cairo to prepare for a visit to Egypt by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin before the end of the year at the invitation of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

At a news conference today, he said two agreements in the fields of transportation and prevention of double taxation will be signed during Cetin's visit. [passage omitted]

On Turkey's position on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Onan said the viewpoints of Egypt and Turkey are identical regarding support for this peaceful process.

He said Turkey has provided a grant of about $2 million to the Palestinians and decided to provide a $50 million interest-free long-term loan to reconstruct Palestinian regions.

He said Turkey is now trying to help the Palestinians with road building and the reconstruction of sewage systems, transportation, and housing, and is ready to support the technical structure of the agricultural sector, marketing, and health. [passage omitted]

On Turkey's position on the situation in Somalia, the Turkish official expressed regret at the bloody events in that country, which suffers from poverty and hunger.

He added: We are closely watching the situation in Somalia, but we cannot keep our forces there indefinitely and without searching for solutions to the problem. [passage omitted]

On Turkish-Iranian relations, Onan said Turkey's relationship with Iran is not normal [laysat 'adiyah], as the two countries have been bound by a border agreement since 1863 without any change in border demarcation. Turkey and Iran play a major role in stability in the region, he said. [passage omitted]

On Turkey's position on the Kurdish problem, Onan said that Turkey is helping Kurds in Iraq and has begun implementing relevant projects worth $13.5 million. He

called on neighboring countries not to allow armed elements or terrorists to cross into Turkish territory. [passage omitted]

Writer Criticizes Media Handling of Somalia

NC3110190993 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 2

[Column by Muhammad al-'Izabi: "General Aidid"]

[Text] Henceforth we will not listen to what the United States says. It has deceived us. It has portrayed General Mohamed Farah Aidid as a highwayman, a professional murderer, a man rejected by his people, and a conspirator against peace and democracy. The U.S. official and media orchestra played tunes of instigation against the Somali general. We believed it and followed in their footsteps. Our press began toeing the same line. Officials from all over the world began attacking Aidid without knowing anything about him. Thus, it was said that the U.S. forces went to Somalia for one purpose only: to get the Somali general dead or alive, as they say in the Hollywood films. The mission failed miserably because Farah Aidid is a national leader with roots in his country, and he is surrounded by people who believe in him and in his cause and are ready to die for him. He possessed the means to supply his military arsenal.

The United States asked for a truce and revised its demands. It denied that it had sent thousands of its troops to Somalia to kill one person. It was afraid that President Clinton's Administration would get involved in a Vietnam war on Somali territory. The U.S. and world press, particularly the Third World press, began speaking in a different tone about General Aidid. A UN official summed up what they said: "Even if we kill the man, another Aidid will emerge." There is more than one leader, and killing one will be useless. There is a people who have demands. It was wrong to depict the supporters of Aidid as a minority of drug-addicted youths who only support him because he pays their wages and provides them with the khat to which they are addicted. It was wrong to estimate their number at no more than 300 people. It turned out to be much more. This was stated frankly by Jonathan Howe, a former U.S. admiral and head of the UN mission in Somalia. We must review our calculations regarding the information we have about the number of Aidid supporters, the depth of his roots among the people, and the quantity and types of weapons in his possession.

Whether right or wrong, the United States can settle its accounts in its own way. But what have we to do with its issues and interests, which do not concern us, but cause damage to our relations? Why don't we let it beat the drums by itself, and not participate in the procession, cite false stories from its press, support its aggression against peoples who have refused to toe its line, and distort, for its own benefit, the image of national leaders and then apologize.

If Egypt cannot deal with the game of politics and its pressures, and it is not within our jurisdiction to do that, the media can do so. We must not toe the line of the U.S. press and not be taken in by the flow of stories from the U.S. news agencies. We must always seek the truth and find a parallel means to learn the other view point, and not say General Mohamed Farah Aidid is a murderer and a thief and then turn around and say he is a national leader.

Mubarak To Meet With al-Qadhdhafi 4 Nov

NC0211193793 Paris AFP in English 1909 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (AFP) - Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will meet Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Thursday [4 November] at an Egyptian military base near the border with Libya, officials said here Tuesday.

Mubarak will travel Wednesday to the Sidi Barrani base, 660 kilometres (410 miles) northwest of Cairo, and will be joined Thursday by al-Qadhdhafi, who will travel there by road.

The officials said the talks would focus on the crisis in Libya's relations with the West following the bombing of a Pan-Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in December 1988.

The United States, Britain and France insisted that a U.N. air and oil embargo be imposed on Libya in April 1992, after Libya refused to extradite intelligence agents accused of the bombing that killed 270 people. They are now pushing for the sanctions to be toughened.

Mubarak Addresses UNESCO Conference in Paris

NC2910221593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the world is currently facing a historic challenge that cannot be disregarded or avoided. This challenge should be faced through joint action and with an enlightened mind.

In his speech at the 27th general UNESCO conference, after his excellency was honored for his role in establishing a national education project, President Mubarak explained that the world is being buffeted by numerous currents and tides that man has not experienced before. The president noted that this places a special responsibility on us at this historic juncture to side with peace and stability in the face of violence, tension, and anxiety, to support the spread of knowledge and science, and to desperately defend man's right for peace and development.

President Mubarak said that the theories spread by some about the world moving to an age dominated by cultural conflict is, to a large degree, wrong. If some stages of the history of mankind were featured by ethnic and religious conflict, this phenomena was limited to periods of degeneration and deterioration. It is unacceptable to say

that man is now passing through such a period while on the threshold of the 21st century and living through the post-atomic and space age.

President Mubarak added that sound logic refuses to accept the idea of cultural conflict, because culture unites and does not divide and brings people closer under the umbrella of wisdom. In this regard he affirmed the importance of overcoming all aspects of backwardness and degeneration in preparation for a new age that carries many dreams for man.

Regarding the claims that Islam has become a factor of division and enmity among people around the world, President Mubarak said that this is wrong. He said that Islam will remain forever a universal message addressing all people on the basis of justice and equality, irrespective of race or color.

In his speech at the UNESCO conference, President Mubarak said that actions that are contrary to the spirit of Islam which are being attributed to it have nothing to do with Islam. These actions are hostile to Islam and seek to distort its image and teachings. Those who support them have lost their way and have become tools of destruction trying to destroy Islam from within.

President Mubarak praised UNESCO for its pioneering role in reviving science and culture, preserving human heritage, and bringing the different races and nations closer.

President Mubarak also dealt with the problem of the population explosion as one of the serious challenges which threaten the march of mankind toward peace and progress. He noted that this issue constitutes a major concern to anyone interested in the future of humanity. We must tackle this problem, armed with a clear vision, scientific program, and creative collective cooperation. He noted that the danger is not limited to a specific continent, because the entire world has become a big village in which no one neighborhood can survive without the others. The president said: We in Egypt have devoted much attention to this problem, which is only paralleled by our determination to raise education to the highest possible standard to enable us to advance with firm and confident steps toward the future.

At the end of his speech, President Mubarak called on the conference participants to rally around a number of principles that would achieve a single world without walls, barriers, wars, or conflicts and would purge the world of ignorance, hatred, and fanaticism.

Arms Control Delegation Leaves for Moscow

NC0211114293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation led by Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, political adviser to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, left Cairo for Moscow this morning to attend the meeting of the working committee on arms control within the framework of the multilateral talks. The committee, which will open its meeting tomorrow, will discuss arms control and creating a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Assembly To Meet 9 Nov; Mubarak To Speak 10 Nov

NC0311072593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Nov 93

["Text of a Republican Decree" issued by President Husni Mubarak on 2 November—read by announcer]

[Text] The People's Assembly is invited to start its fourth regular session of the sixth legislative term at 1000 on Tuesday 24 Jumada al-Ula 1414 Hegira corresponding to 9 November 1993.

[In a related report, Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 19 October carries a page 1 report, which adds the following: "President Husni Mubarak will deliver an important political speech at the joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council on 10 November at the start of the new parliamentary session. President Mubarak will outline the tasks and plan of action for the coming stage."]

Paper on Gunman's Background, 'Mental Disorder'

NC0211153093 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 9

[Text] The Central Cairo Prosecution Office has ordered that defendant Sabir Muhammad Farahat [gunman who opened fire at foreign tourists in Cairo Semiramis Hotel on 26 October] be remanded into custody for 15 days pending the investigations. He was charged with premeditated murder, attempted murder, and the possession of firearms and ammunition without a license and with the purpose of using them to disturb public order and security. The Prosecution Office also ordered autopsies of the bodies of the three victims of the Semiramis Hotel shooting. The three wounded persons will be questioned this morning if their medical conditions permit it.

[In a related story, Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic on 28 October on the same page adds: "The investigations into the horrendous crime that took place the day before yesterday at the Semiramis Hotel indicate that the 28-year-old culprit, Sabir Muhammad Farahat, committed the crime alone, without the help of any individual or quarter. A search of criminal files has revealed that he has no criminal record and does not belong to any terrorist organizations.]

According to the investigations, the culprit used to frequent major hotels to harass female tourists. He has a mental disorder and was discharged from the military because of it. He has never worked at the Semiramis Hotel or any other hotel. A search of his home in 'Izbat al-Nakhl

has produced no incriminating evidence. His father testified that he had a quarrel with his son hours before the incident over the licentious life he was leading. He added that his son had received treatment for a mental disorder at the al-Qubbah Military Hospital."

Three 'Terrorists' Executed 3 Nov

NC0311075793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0756 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Three convicted terrorists, members of the al-Shawqiyun Organization, were executed today.

The three convicts executed today were Ramadan Mustafa Muhammad Hasan, 'Ali Fayid Mayhub 'Abd-al-'Al, and Sa'id 'Abd-al-Raziq Badawi 'Ali.

A responsible source in the military judiciary said the executions took place at the appeals prison in Cairo this morning after completing all the legal procedures.

The Higher Military Court sentenced to death four members of the dissident al-Shawqiyun Organization, one a fugitive, on 21 August.

The court convicted them of being involved in robbing four jewelry shops, killing four citizens, and attempting to kill nine others in addition to possessing weapons and ammunition with the aim of carrying out terrorist acts.

Man Wanted for Assaults, Bombings Arrested

NC0211150593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—State Security detectives today arrested the terrorist Bakri 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Jawwad, who was wanted in connection with several incidents, including assaults on citizens and using an explosive device against a wedding party in al-Fayyum.

A Foreign Ministry security source announced that this terrorist, who is also suspected of involvement in setting video rental stores on fire and bombing a cafeteria, has been referred to the prosecutor's office.

The source added that the security forces are continuing intensive raids to apprehend fugitive terrorists. Various police departments are coordinating their efforts and exchanging information to locate the terrorists' hideouts.

Libya

Opposition Confirms 300 Killed in Coup Bid

JN0211123793 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 1-7 Nov 93 p 7

[Text] London, AL-WASAT—Did a coup attempt really take place in Libya mid-October? There is conflicting information. Official sources have denied the attempt, describing it as a "figment of the imagination." The opposition, however, has confirmed that a military rebellion occurred in Misratah city in the northern region of the country, saying Libyan aircraft bombed the rebels to suppress the attempt.

The opposition said that "around 2,000 infantrymen, led by Colonel Saqr, drove their vehicles and took control of an intersection near the garrison." The opposition said the rebellion started in Bani Walid area where the Warfalah tribe lives, then extended to Misratah.

U.S. sources confirmed Libyan opposition reports, adding that the coup was planned by Colonel 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sharif, who fled to Switzerland, where his son Sharif lives. Al-Sharif is one of the "free officers" who, along with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, led the revolution in 1969.

It is known that Col. al-Sharif was at the head of the Libyan force which stormed the capital of Chad, N'Djamena. Since his return from there, he had worked as a commander of the Armed Forces. His office was next to al-Qadhdhafi's at the headquarters in Bab al-'Aziziyah barracks in Tripoli. Until his departure of Libya, al-Sharif was directly responsible—after al-Qadhdhafi—for military aid to liberation and other movements in the world.

Libyan opposition sources confirm, however, that the "National Front for the Salvation of Libya" is behind the military rebellion which took place in Misratah, adding that "this brave, daring uprising was planned, led, and carried out by officers who have a relationship with the front."

Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, head of the "Coordinating Body of Nationalist and Democratic Libyan Forces," said: "The rebellion began when al-Qadhdhafi dispatched a technical group to remove the treads of tanks in Misratah camp, in preparation for the visit he made to the city to meet with the revolutionary committees."

He went on: "The officers and military in the camp rejected the idea and clashed with the technical unit. The rebellion soon spread to Bani Walid. However, the "special forces" quickly suppressed their activity, and then the "special squadron" bombed the garrison." He said "the pro-regime forces are still setting up roadblocks along the roads of the region where the rebellion occurred. They are also tightening control of border points and checking identity cards according to namelists issued by the Armed Forces."

Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the "National Front for the Salvation of Libya," told AL-WASAT: "The October uprising, which claimed more than 300 martyrs, is a message which the world should remember while looking at al-Qadhdhafi's regime through the Lockerbie crisis. The Libyan people, regardless of this crisis which the regime is responsible for, have their own reasons which made them rise up now and in the past, and which will make them continue to do so in the future."

Libyan Opposition Meets in Algeria

PM0111142693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Bisharah Shirbil and Ragidah Dirgham: "Washington, London, and Paris Defer Intensification of Sanctions Against Tripoli; Libyan Opposition Met in Algiers in Preparation for Joint Statement To Coordinate Efforts"]

[Excerpt] London, New York—AL-HAYAH has learned that on 14 and 15 October Algeria hosted a meeting of the Libyan opposition which included Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the Libyan National Salvation Front; Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, chairman of the coordination committee of the Democratic and National Forces; and former Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, secretary general of the Libyan National Alliance.

In New York, the United States, Britain, and France have temporarily backtracked on submitting a draft resolution stepping up sanctions against Libya.

Well-informed sources said that the participants discussed coordinating the efforts of all Libyan opposition factions and surmounting their differences in order to secure a unified position on the Libyan regime and a unified view of the stage that will follow it.

The sources added that "the participants ironed out many of the obstacles obstructing the coordination of their efforts. They also considered issuing a joint statement, which is being prepared with a view to announcing it shortly."

The sources pointed out that the draft statement includes a number of points, the most important of which are:
—To agree that the present regime is leading the country to disaster and that economic conditions have reached a point threatening citizens' lives;
—To agree on adopting democracy and pluralism as the only method of government after toppling the regime;
—To agree that general secret voting is the only source of legitimacy for any future authority;
—To agree that the opposition's decision-making is independent of any force for any reason or under any name.

The sources also said that contacts between al-Muqaryif, al-Huni, and Kikhya are continuing and that they have expanded to include other opposition factions and figures. The sources emphasized that another meeting will be held in Algiers soon to put the final touches to the joint statement.

As is well known, Algerian-Libyan relations are experiencing severe tension which has reached the point of public criticisms. The Higher State Council in Algeria issued a statement vehemently criticizing the Libyan regime. Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri threatened "a suitable reply" if Libyan interference continues. [passage omitted]

Libyan-Sudanese Integration Committee Meets

LD0211180293 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The working committee for Libyan-Sudanese integration which is a subcommittee of the higher joint Libyan Sudanese Committee convened in Tripoli yesterday evening.

Attending the meeting were the Secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Unity, Dr. Awad Ahmed al-Jaz, the minister for presidential affairs of the Sudan, Dr. Ustafa 'Uthman [name as received], the minister of state of the presidency in the Sudan, the Secretary General of the World Popular Friendship Council in the Sudan, Faruq al-Bashri, and the secretary general of the General Secretariat for Integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Sudan.

The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Unity gave a speech at the meeting in which he commended the Sudanese delegation and said that Libyan-Sudanese integration had a unifying scope which could evolve into the building of joint institutions, and would thus realise the aspirations and hopes of both peoples in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Sudan.

The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Unity added that "Sudan's presence in the Great Jamahiriyah is a boost for our morale and will move us further along the road to building comprehensive Arab unity and that the size of the Arab world had strategic importance, increasing its strength, and will allow us to challenge the enemies of the Arab world. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Dr. Awad Ahmed al-Jaz, the minister for presidential affairs in the Sudan also gave a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudan and the Sudanese people to the leader of the revolution and the people of the Great Jamahiriyah. He said: "We are happy to be in the Great Jamahiriyah" and reaffirmed their solidarity with and support for the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in resisting the harsh measures imposed on them by UN Security Council Resolution 748.

He added that this committee would exert all in its capacity to fulfill the aspirations of both peoples in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Sudan and to progress with the process of integration.

After these opening speeches, the meeting discussed the agenda which included recommendations and resolutions decided upon by the joint committee at its second session and suitable measures to draw up the proposed executive programmes of the technical committees whose members would be named during this meeting.

The agenda also includes the proposals of the General Secretariat on reviving the four freedoms agreement:

Freedom of residence, freedom to travel, freedom to own property and freedom to work.

Dr. Awad Ahmed al-Jaz, the minister for presidential affairs in the Sudan and his accompanying delegation arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah yesterday to take part in the meetings of the Working Committee for Libyan Sudanese Integration which began in Tripoli yesterday evening.

Mauritania

UAE Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets President

AB3110131593 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya granted an audience this evening to Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], who felt honored by the audience.

He said they examined matters of mutual interest and expressed the hope that his visit would help strengthen Mauritanian-UAE bilateral relations in the near future. Present at the audience were Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; our ambassador to Abu Dhabi; and the UAE ambassador to Mauritania; as well as other members of the visiting delegation.

Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, who arrived in Nouakchott early this afternoon, stated on arrival that his visit was designed to enable his country's businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Mauritania, an Arab and Muslim country that deserves the UAE's assistance and support. [passage omitted]

UAE Minister on Talks

LD3010214793 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency the President of the Republic Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya this evening at the presidency received His Excellency Shaykh Hamdan Bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Following their meeting, Shaykh Hamdan Bin Zayid made the following statement to our colleague Daddah Ould Abdallah:

[Begin Shaykh Hamdan recording] I am honored to meet with His Excellency the president. At this meeting, we dealt with issues which are of interest to the UAE and Mauritania. God willing, we hope that the relations between the two countries will always continue and develop. God willing, we hope to see the results of these talks very soon. We are happy about this meeting, and we have been honored. [end recording]

Shaykh Hamdan Bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan and the accompanying delegation had arrived this afternoon in the capital. After they were received by a Mauritanian delegation headed by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation the two ministers held bilateral talks on relations existing between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hamdan said that we have come to Mauritania hoping that there would be an opportunity to invest in this fraternal country, and help and support it because it is an Arab and a Muslim country which deserves all help and support. He voiced his hope that he would be successful in this task.

Morocco

'Arafat Meeting With King Hassan 'Positive'

LD0211133593 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 02 (MAP)—President of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat Monday paid a short visit to Rabat where he held "positive" and "constructive" talks with King Hassan II.

'Arafat told the media that his talks with the sovereign covered all the issues pertaining to the phase of reconstruction and implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

"We also discussed the difficulties facing us up on the political, economic and other levels, for we are recovering a land whose infrastructure was completely destroyed because of the Israeli occupation", 'Arafat said.

The Palestinian leader added that he voiced to the sovereign, on behalf of the Palestinian people and leadership, warm thanks for the backing extended to them by the Moroccan king, Government and people and that he listened to the sovereign's valuable advice.

About the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, 'Arafat said these negotiations are a corner stone since they will unveil whether what has been decided between Palestinians and Israelis will be applied properly or not.

"We hope that we will succeed in lowering down all difficulties and implementing the accord so that we can hoist the Palestinian flag over a liberated Palestinian land and start the following phase to pray all together in holy Al-Quds", 'Arafat said.

'Arafat was accompanied by member of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and member of the Fatah Central Committee Hani al- Hasan.

'Arafat Concludes Visit

LD0211142993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat concluded his working visit to Morocco last night after he had been received by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him.

At Rabat-Sale airport, President 'Arafat made a statement in which he described his talks with his majesty the king as positive and constructive.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I can say with truthfulness that his majesty the king was, as usual, a guiding brother full of wisdom, faith, and fraternity, qualities that make us proud. This is not just my opinion but the opinion of our people as a whole.

Today's talks at this blessed meeting between us and His Majesty were positive and constructive. We discussed all the problems that might be facing us during the reconstruction phase and the translation of the agreement from words into good deeds. We also discussed all the other catastrophes that have been facing us at a political and economic level in addition to other problems that everyone is aware of, i.e. we are going to be given back a land and homeland whose infrastructure has been fully destroyed by the Israeli occupation of our blessed land. These are problems that would need the help and support of our sincere brothers and friends in order to train cadres and rebuild the Palestinian institutions through this difficult period. [passage omitted] [end recording]

UN Representative Speaks on Western Sahara

LD3010144393 Rabat MAP in English 1312 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] New York, Oct. 30 (MAP)—The UN General Assembly commission on special political issues and decolonization (fourth commission) Friday adopted without casting votes a resolution reaffirming its support to the efforts the UN secretary general will continue on making for the organization and control by the UNO [United Nations Organization], in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum of autodetermination of the people of the Western Sahara in accordance with Resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991) under which the Security Council adopted the settlement plan on the Sahara issue.

By the new resolution, the commission adopts the content of the letter the UN secretary general addressed to the president of the Security Council and calling on the council's members for backing to the efforts the former exerts to make the preparations for the referendum progress rapidly in accordance to Resolution 809.

The council's members note in the resolution the identification commission has started preparations and voiced satisfaction that the two parties reaffirmed their readiness to fully implement the peace plan especially concerning the compromise proposal on the interpretation and implementation of the criteria. They also share the hope of the UN secretary general that direct talks between the two parties resume.

In an address Friday before the voting, Moroccan permanent representative to the UNO Ahmed Snoussi said "It has been said, understood and wished that dialog be a complement to the settlement process of the Sahara issue and a means to ease and foster a rapid setting in motion of the settlement plan and not at all a substitute for the plan, as some want to present the dialog".

The Moroccan diplomat added dialog "cannot deal with all pending issues, for most of the latter are of the exclusive competence of the UN secretary general and his special representative".

On the failure of the meeting of New York, Snoussi said that Morocco is keen on discouraging a media and mediatized dialog, based on a number of formalities and protocol measures. Morocco does not want a dialog that "aims merely at gaining sterile and fruitless publicity" and sees no advantage nor usefulness embarking on such a dialog, he explained.

King Hassan Receives Sahara UN Representative

LD0111171993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, this afternoon received Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, special representative of the UN secretary general in charge of the Sahara issue, at the royal court in Rabat. [passage omitted]

PPS Responds Positively to Hassan Proposal

LD2810150793 Rabat MAP in English 1301 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct 28 (MAP)—The Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS) decided to positively respond to the proposal King Hassan II made to the four parties of the opposition in the former House of Representatives when he received them last Friday.

The PPS Central Committee which held here Tuesday its 27th ordinary session unanimously asserted 'the PPS readiness to participate with the other democratic parties which formed the opposition in the previous parliament in forming a government, in view of the supreme interests of the nation and in a bid to guarantee the people's rights and to achieved change, progress and recovery'.

The PPS Central Committee pointed out in a draft statement that 'the sovereign's proposal is a historic turning point that is part of the consolidation of the democratic process and that opens prospects for edifying a prosperous and democratic future, through enabling the parties of the former opposition to implement their

program, contribute to the edification of a state of law and consecrate a modern parliamentary practice'.

The former opposition parties have thus the opportunity to contribute to economic, social and cultural issues, the PPS central committee said adding that problems currently facing the country require these parties' contribution right now, not in six years.

According to the draft statement, the Central committee unanimously approved the report presented by the PPS secretary general 'Ali Yata.

'Ali Yata dealt in the report with the royal proposal to the former opposition parties saying that the sovereign proposed the forming of a government made up of members from the four democratic parties, that the sovereign will only appoint the prime minister, and the ministers of foreign affairs, of the interior and of justice.

He said the sovereign asked the new government to honor three commitments, namely endeavor so that the state deficit does not exceed 1.5 pc [percent], curb inflation, and create productive jobs while ensuring their repartition in a rational way and entrusting them to the most skilled people.

Sudan

Foreign Minister: Dialogue With U.S. Continuing

Criticizes U.S. Symposium

EA0211175293 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, has confirmed that dialogue between Sudan and the American Administration is continuing on the basis of Sudan's foreign policy, which concentrates on the freedom of political decision-making. He said the dialogue was engaged in after Sudan was convinced of its usefulness.

The foreign minister went on to say from the ministry's regular forum this morning that the recent symposium in Washington was a veil to obfuscate secret meetings between the factions of the rebel movement. He said the aim of the symposium had been to unite these factions against the government and to abort the efforts of former American President Jimmy Carter and those of Africa to bring about peace in the country. Dr. Abu Salih stressed that the government would not compromise Sudan's unity, security and stability.

He touched on the results of his recent visit to the Sultanate of Oman, saying it had confirmed the congruity of views on the part of the two countries on many issues. On the resumption of talks between the Sudanese and Egyptian foreign ministers, Dr. Abu Salih said the Sudanese Government was awaiting the Egyptian reply on fixing a date and venue for the resumption of the talks.

Awaiting U.S. Envoy's 'Explanation'

EA0211215693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)— Dr. Abu Salih affirmed Sudan's rejection to any meeting or negotiations regarding self-determination, stating that dismembering Sudan was unacceptable. He said that there would be no negotiations except under the unity of Sudan, adding that the self-determination issue would be rejected by Sudanese Government.

In his commentary on the press statement by the U.S. ambassador to Sudan, Abu Salih said that the Sudanese Government did not respond to the published statements in the mass media and the Foreign Ministry was waiting for an explanation from the U.S. ambassador.

He stated that Sudan conducted foreign policy in dignity and pride and that dialogue started with the United States came after a strong conviction.

On Political Changes, Gulf Ties

PM0111125093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 7

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Ghani] Did you propose to the Sultanate of Oman to assist in normalizing your country's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states after the damage to these relations as a result of the Gulf crisis?

[Abu-Salih] I am happy to be in Oman. It is my first visit. The visit is in response to an invitation from the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. The aim is to work to develop bilateral relations between the two countries, which are bound by numerous ties of Arabism and Islam and Oman's links with and knowledge of Africa.

We consult over bilateral relations and all issues and situations that concern us in the Arab region. It was also natural for us to discuss the Arab situation in general and Sudan's relations with the Gulf states in particular. We believe that Arab solidarity and transcending Arab differences is a strategic aim for which we must work.

Sudan is situated in the heart of the Arab nation and has huge capabilities from which the Arab nation can benefit and which it can help to develop too. I believe that this solidarity should be brought about.

We are not mediating for Oman in this connection, but we are consulting over joint action for the sake of sound relations between us and our brothers in the Gulf, especially after the Gulf incidents. We are also working for Arab solidarity.

['Abd-al-Ghani] How would you assess your relations with the Gulf states, and is there a possibility of a similar visit to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states?

[Abu-Salih] We are working patiently to return matters to normal with the Gulf states. I visited Qatar recently and intend to visit Saudi Arabia. We are moving toward securing healthy relations between us and the GCC states.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The Sudanese Government is facing the threat of international political and economic isolation, especially after the U.S. decision to include Sudan on the list of the states supporting terrorism. What role can your visit to Oman, a traditional friend of the United States and the West, play in backing your diplomatic campaign designed to revoke the decision and prevent this isolation?

[Abu-Salih] I did not need to talk about that decision. Not a single word was mentioned about it in my talks with the Omanis, because the decision is not based on any evidence. It is a hasty decision. I do not know why the U.S. Administration rushed to announce it hastily. Especially as I received messages from the administration in April, saying that there was no evidence of Sudan's supporting terrorist operations, on the grounds that Sudan—in terms of ethics, values, and conduct—cannot take the road of terrorism, which we condemn and consider a vile action of which we cannot accuse any Sudanese. The world found out through former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's testimony that the U.S. Government was hasty in issuing the decision, and that there is no evidence.

We believe that the decision must be reconsidered. The calm we are witnessing in relations probably indicates the Americans intend to reconsider it.

['Abd-al-Ghani] To what extent do you believe that recent political changes in Sudan, especially the dissolution of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], could help to change the Sudanese Government's image, hence to achieve a breakthrough in Khartoum's relations with the West?

[Abu-Salih] First of all, I do not know why an internal situation or government system is linked with foreign relations. There is a four-year-old revolution in Sudan. It emerged after a regime whose Westminster-style liberal democracy led to unrest and security disruption in the country. It also led to fighting in west Sudan which nearly spread to east Sudan. It led to the loss of security and the capture of cities in southern Sudan. The country needs security, order, and unity to destroy the rebellion and achieve a peaceful solution to this chronic issue.

So in the past period, under the RCC leadership, a program was drawn up with the participation of all the Sudanese forces, all social, economic, and political forces. [passage omitted]

The RCC's dissolution puts an end to the military character of the regime in order to work in accordance with the program in which the masses participated to secure real representation through something like a liberal system, namely through the geographical constituencies and 9,000 people's congresses representing citizens, ending with the election of the president of the republic. It is a transitional phase in which even though the president of the republic is military, the character of the entire regime will become civilian, moving from revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] Are there any initiatives by you or others to rectify relations between Sudan and some Arab states like Algeria and Tunisia which have deteriorated as a result of the fundamentalism phenomenon?

[Abu-Salih] I do not know what is intended by fundamentalism. Sudan announced that it supports the Islamic Shari'ah. The Shari'ah is one and Islam is one, so we pay no attention to accusations of fundamentalism leveled at us. There is misunderstanding between us and our brothers in Algeria and Tunisia. There is no justification for it, because Islamic movements exist throughout the world. But the situation differs in Sudan. We are not talking about a movement, but about the thinking of huge masses in Sudan wishing to use Islam as their guide, not as a fundamentalist movement or party. They have accepted this line which is completely consistent with moderate human thinking.

['Abd-al-Ghani] There has been much talk about a relative improvement in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. You were quoted as saying that Egypt has promised to support Sudan in its demand to revoke the decision listing it among the states supporting terrorism. But some people believe that the roots of the differences between Cairo and Khartoum are still there.

[Abu-Salih] We have not asked Egypt to mediate in the terrorism list issue. I conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as president of the OAU. And we believe that Egypt has a role to play in supporting right and conveying our view to others.

Differences between Egypt and Sudan are not difficult to resolve. Perhaps the meeting between the Egyptian and Sudanese president and my meeting with brother 'Amr Musa have laid down the foundation. Because it is possible to discuss in complete frankness all existing differences, including the Hala'ib problem and other issues about which I do not want to talk in detail. We agreed not to go into the details and to promote a cordial atmosphere, on the grounds that a normal, indeed special, relationship between Sudan and Egypt is a strategic aim. We must overcome the disputes between us in order to achieve a special and distinct relationship between the two countries. We do not believe it is impossible to resolve these differences.

Official Reacts to U.S. Envoy's Statement

EA0211171593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)—Ambassador and director of Political Administration department at the Foreign Ministry Mahdi Ibrahim asserted that the Sudan does not succumb to pressure from any country and rejects intimidation and imposing of conditions on the sovereignty of the countries. Mahdi said to the daily AL-INGAZ AL-WATANI issued Tuesday [2 November] here in his comment on the American ambassador's statement to the AFP—who said that his government would not cooperate with the Sudanese Government until it restored democracy and renounced terrorism—that the Sudan rejects the imposition of political or economic method from any quarters.

He indicated that if there was a just international organization in the world it would stop that type of international terrorism. He added that the Sudan will remain with an open heart and mind for dialogue exchange of interests and establishing relations with all countries.

African Efforts on Southern Problem Welcomed

EA0111195093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has confirmed Sudan's welcome of the African efforts to solve the southern problem, pointing out that African states are more capable of solving the continent's problems. His excellency said yesterday when he met the delegation of the World Council of Churches [WCC] that the states of the Horn of Africa should also strive to find a solution to the Somali problem. He stressed the need to keep away foreign influence on African problems. [passage omitted]

His excellency asked the WCC to assume its responsibility toward human suffering of the victims of the war waged by the rebel John Garang.

Al-Bashir Reaffirms Commitment to Shari'ah

EA0211213193 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)—President Umar al-Bashir Tuesday [2 November] affirmed that the revolution would not relinquish the implementation of shari'ah laws.

Addressing a businessmen's delegation here on Tuesday, General al-Bashir stressed that the government would not abandon the liberalization policy. He explained that the current measures were aimed at rectifying policies and expressed the revolution's concern with agricultural industrial and commercial products.

He said the revolution rehabilated highways, hospitals and airports despite the severe internal circumstances and foreign blockade.

Al-Bashir touched on the revolution's efforts for peace achievement.

Officials Comment on 'Limited' Cabinet Reshuffle

PM0211165493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 93 pp1, 4

[Reports by Kamal Hamid and 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum and Nizar Daww al-Na'im in London: "Al-Turabi Sponsors Mediation Between Fatah and Hamas. Khartoum: Half the Cabinet From the 'Front'"]

[Excerpts] In the new limited Sudanese cabinet reshuffle in which the finance and information ministers, who had been the target of sharp criticism, were excluded from the cabinet, the National Islamic Front [NIF], which supports President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, retained half the seats. Former Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi has announced that he resigned in protest against amendments in the prices liberalization policy.

The Sudanese opposition believes that "the fact that a large number of independent figures and members of other parties recently contacted by officials refused to joint the cabinet, is fresh evidence that everyone is convinced that the regime is collapsing economically and politically."

Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Arab People's Congress [IAPC], believes that "the anti-Sudan campaigns have achieved extremely positive results in that they opened the way for a dialogue that made this country well known." Although it had not previously been well known, the country became the target of a vast campaign. He stressed that the IAPC, scheduled to meet in Khartoum next month, will concentrate on Arab and Islamic issues, including the persecuted Islamic minorities, and the new world order. He said that he invited the Palestinian movements Fatah and Hamas to meet in Khartoum and start a new dialogue with the aim of achieving Palestinian accord. [passage omitted]

Former Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi issued a statement yesterday pointing out that he was not relieved of his duties but rather that he resigned on 13 October in protest against the introduction of amendments to the price liberalization policy which he upheld throughout his work at the ministry.

The statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, said: "The media report of my dismissal was inaccurate. I submitted a letter of resignation to President 'Umar al-Bashir because of the announcement of

the new economic policy covering foreign currency regulation." He added that al-Bashir "understood my position and offered me alternative duties, but I declined and requested the announcement of my resignation." [passage omitted]

Presidential Affairs Minister Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din denied that he was removed from his post, which is what many people understood from the cabinet formation announcement. He said that his name was not on the list because he worked at the presidential office and was not a member of the cabinet.

Dr. 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the opposition Ummah Party and former finance minister, has strongly attacked the new government. He said that the recent changes, including the dissolution of the Revolution Command Council and the cabinet changes, "were all unnecessary formalities, but the conditions of the people are still the same." He said that the government's intensive contacts with independent figures and members of parties of the left, right, and center including the Mayuists (supporters of former President Ja'far Numayri) were futile "because they all refused to join the government for the simple reason that the regime has collapsed politically and economically." He added that "the participation of any politician in that government is tantamount to political suicide." [passage omitted]

At a news conference in Khartoum yesterday, al-Turabi announced that he had invited Fatah and Hamas to meet in Khartoum "to continue the dialogue with the aim of achieving some accord despite the clear differences" in the positions of the two movements on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said that the two movements had participated in the constituent session of the IAPC "and we had sessions of dialogue which achieved good results. The dialogue will continue during the IAPC session due to be held in December."

He denied the charge that the IAPC sponsored terrorism and extremist movements. He saw that as a "naive accusation that calls for ridicule. I read, in the U.S. Congress minutes, that the IAPC sponsors terrorists of whom over 250 lived underground, and that a tunnel had been built to link my office in central Khartoum with my house in al-Manshiyah quarter east of Khartoum." He added: "They produced names whom they claimed we sponsored, but I do not know these names and have never heard of them." On the Arabs who joined the Afghan Mojahedin, al-Turabi said: "These young people had received their training and arms from the United States, which supported the Islamic resistance against the Soviets but because of international changes, the mojahedin became terrorists retroactively after their retirement and the cessation of their work." He denied that any of them were in Sudan. He confirmed playing a part in the interests of reconciliation in Afghanistan and announced his intention to visit Kabul for that purpose. He also revealed that he had played a part in the interests of containing the conflict between the Germans and the Turks in Germany and between the Algerian Salvation Front and the Algerian Government. He said that these efforts "might have succeeded, had it not been for the incident to which I was subjected" in the middle of last year.

Tunisia

Chamber Endorses Bill Stipulating Office Term

LD0211151693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpts] At a public session held this morning under the chairmanship of Speaker Habib Boulares, the Chamber of Deputies, after a second reading, endorsed a constitutional bill concerning the next presidential and parliamentary terms.

Prime Minister Hamid Karoui attended the public session held by the Chamber of Deputies to consider the second reading of the constitutional bill concerning the next presidential and parliamentary terms.

During a debate on the bill, Karoui delivered a speech in which he said: This bill aims at treating the constitutional problem regarding the start of the next parliamentary session and the end of the next presidential and parliamentary terms in accordance with the stipulations of the Constitution and the implementation of its rulings. [passage omitted]

On the basis of the provisions of Chapter 29 of the Constitution, the bill stipulates that the first term of the new Chamber of Deputies will start during the first half of April 1994, and the current parliamentary term will end on the day on which the new Chamber of Deputies convenes.

The bill also stipulates that the next parliamentary term will end on the second Sunday in November 1999, which will, thereafter, make election dates, the start and, consequently, the duration of the parliamentary term fully consistent with the normal provisions of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

In an effort to ensure that the legislative and presidential elections will coincide, the constitutional bill also stipulates that the next presidential term will end on the second Sunday in November 1999. [passage omitted]

Social Party for Progress Holds Congress

LD3010203293 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Social Party for Progress held its first congress yesterday, Friday evening. The opening session was attended by representatives of political parties, national organizations, and some members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Tunisia, among foreign guests.

Mounir Beji, leader of the Social Party for Progress, which was founded in 1988, delivered a speech at the beginning of the session. He presented an outline of the

policy pursued by his party and the objectives for which it strived, the most important among which was to defend liberalism, democracy, freedom, human rights, and civil society. On behalf of the party's activists, he expressed his profound appreciation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's persistent endeavor to realize all those objectives. He went on to say that the 7 November declaration represented for us and for all the active forces in the country an objective that we all strived to achieve. [passage omitted]

Gulf Opposition Parties Issue Statement

NC3110182293 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] "The Nationalist Forces in the Arabian Gulf" recently issued a statement following their periodic meeting, at which they discussed Gulf and Arab affairs. The statement calls for promoting an alliance among opposition forces and figures of all political and social orientations, inside every individual country and at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. This, the statement says, would reflect positively on the national, democratic, and unionist action.

According to the statement, participants in the meeting discussed the situation in the region, which still is experiencing the aftereffects of the second Gulf war with its massive destruction of the capabilities of Iraq and Kuwait and major depletion of the GCC national resources and financial reserves. The Gulf war, moreover, resulted in imposing U.S. military, economic, and political hegemony on the region and created a deep rift in inter-Arab relations, enabling the United States, in cooperation with its Israeli ally and its followers in the region, to implement its conspiratorial scheme against the Arab nation and the neighboring peoples .

The statement says that the participants, representing the Omani Popular Democratic Front [al-Jabhah al-Sha'biyah al-Dimuqratiyah al-'Umaniyah], the National Democratic Grouping in Saudi Arabia [al-Tajammu' al-Watani al-Dimuqrati Fi al-Sa'udiyah], the Bahraini National Liberation Front [Jabhat al-Tahrir al-Watani al-Bahraniyah], and the Bahraini Popular Front [al-Jabhah al- Sha'biyah Fi al-Bahrain], noted with regret that Iraq and Kuwait continue to pursue a shortsighted vindictive policy.

They drew attention to the fact that the continuation of this policy sets the stage for another war between the two countries. They noted that this policy affects not only those two countries, but has a negative impact in the Arab arena, as Kuwait and a number of GCC countries insist on estrangement from the Arab countries that rejected the U.S. interference in the crisis. This has paralyzed the Arab League and rendered common Arab action impotent. The GCC countries have also avoided every Arab formula to secure protection for the region; they depend on Western protection in general and U.S. protection in particular. This Western protection only deepens Arab divisions and uses the situation to deplete the region's resources and tighten the control of oil and the hegemony over political decisions.

The statement goes on to say: At a time when the Gulf region and the Arab nation in general are facing grave developments, the GCC regimes are persisting in their policy of monopolizing authority, excluding the people from the decision-making process, and resisting any reform. This is being done under the umbrella of continued violation of national sovereignty, a return to the days of colonialism—but at the hands of the United States this time—and the squandering of the national oil wealth and public funds to satisfy the dictates of the West and in the interest of a marginal, parasitic group and at the expense of the majority of the people, future generations, and pan-Arab interests. The weapon of oil and its revenues have even been turned into a weapon in the hands of the imperialist and Israeli enemy to use to impose their dictates on the Arabs and their friends. On the other hand, this policy is facing an increasing and spreading resistance that includes new social groups such as the middle classes and some of the bourgeoisie that has national inclinations, thus forming a broadly based and unprecedented alliance of national, democratic, and religious forces and personalities. This movement is not limited to any country to the exclusion of others. It is also manifested in the formation of Gulf organizations that are offering democratic alternatives with the aim of reforming the inadequate GCC concept and doing away with divisions, subservience, and hegemony and thus turning it into a concept based on popular participation and democratic institutions. To contain this movement, some regimes have introduced superficial changes in their systems, such as forming appointed consultative councils that lack any authority and that are not an alternative to the popular demand for setting up elected parliaments that have full legislative and supervisory powers.

The conferees express their ambition to bring about deep reforms in society and the existing political system so as to put an end to the despotic, tribal, monopolistic, and subservient system. This is to be done through popular participation as a deeply entrenched and indisputable right—for whose sake generations have made sacrifices—in a state based on democracy and political pluralism that guarantees public freedoms and personal human rights, a state where law and order prevail and that ensures national sovereignty and social justice and protects the national wealth and public funds as the property of the people.

The statement stresses that the national forces in the Gulf support the policy of coexistence of the Arab regimes in all their various systems and also the need to resolve the problems resulting from the colonial legacy, such as border disputes, through peaceful means in the interest of the Arab peoples. It also stresses the need to develop cooperation in all fields in order to serve the Arab peoples' interests, which depends on these peoples' participation, support, and their benefiting from it.

At the international level, the statement notes that the new world order that peoples of the world are hoping to establish in the post-Cold War era will not be established under the hegemony of U.S. and capitalist imperialism, but will be achieved through the peoples' struggles to establish a fair political and economic order, an equitable system of relations between small and big nations, and respect for the peoples' rights as well as human rights all over the world.

FRG Deputy Defense Minister Meets GCC Official

LD3010212093 Riyadh SPA in English 1930 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 30, SPA—Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, assistant secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council for Economic Affairs received at the GCC headquarters here on Saturday Mr Joerg Schoenbohm, the German deputy minister of defense for security and armament affairs and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed ways to enhance cooperation between the GCC states and the Federal Republic of Germany. The German official arrived in Riyadh last night on a visit to the Kingdom.

Kuwait

'Security Belt' Workers Thwart Iraqi Attack

LD0211202593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1837 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Nov (KUNA)—An Interior Ministry official source reported that a group of workers in charge of the implementation of the security belt project this afternoon thwarted a hostile Iraqi attempt aimed at kidnapping the group and holding them hostage, using the threat of arms.

The source indicated in a statement to this effect to KUNA here tonight that while the group working on the project of the security belt were carrying out their routine duties this afternoon in the Kuwaiti territories in the presence of UN forces, a four-person Iraqi force containing three officers in military uniform crossed the Kuwaiti border and appeared in front of the group with a view to kidnapping them and taking them hostage under threat of arms.

The source added that the UN representatives warned the Iraqi officers that they were in Kuwaiti territory and asked them in vain to free the group. The source pointed out that the Iraqi military force fired at them to force them to obey orders, which led the group to defend themselves and thwart this hostile action.

The source concluded its statement to KUNA by saying that the Interior Ministry has informed the United Nations about the details of this incident.

It is worth mentioning that Kuwait recently drew the attention of the United Nations to the repeated attempts of the Iraqi regime to obstruct the digging of the security belt in the border region. This was expressed in a message addressed by Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations.

'Source' Reacts To Iraqi Proposal on Prisoners

LD0111203693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1643 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 Nov KUNA—A responsible Kuwaiti source described the allegations renewed today by the Iraqi regime over its efforts to put an end to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners it holds as a new attempt to create confusion and circumvent the Security Council's clear and explicit resolutions, and the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in connection with this humanitarian issue.

In his statement to KUNA, the source was commenting on the statements of the Iraqi regime's representative at the Arab League, in which he claimed that Iraq was cooperating seriously with the Security Council and the ICRC to put an end to the outstanding issues between Kuwait and Iraq.

The Kuwaiti source affirmed that the Security Council's resolutions were decisive in this respect, and Iraq could not afford but to obey their implementation which, in their totality, constituted an integrated whole with a legal force. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti source replied by expressing the State of Kuwait's welcome of any exerted efforts for speeding up the release of its prisoners, on condition that these efforts remained within the context of international legitimacy.

Concerning the content of the Iraqi proposal about the participation of Kuwaiti parliamentarians in the suggested committee, the Kuwaiti source said: By that, Iraq aimed at causing a split in the Kuwaiti society, by suggesting that there was a contradiction between the official and public stances in the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

In this respect, the responsible Kuwaiti source said: The Security Council's resolutions were clear and explicit in connection with the prisoners' issue, and that the ICRC was also working as an intermediary between the two sides.

The source wondered: If the Iraqis were serious in their proposal, why did they stay away from the meetings of the alliance countries, which held numerous sessions on the prisoners [issue] in Geneva, and completely ignored the role of the Red Cross in this respect. [passage omitted]

At the end of his statement, the responsible Kuwaiti source affirmed [words indistinct], pointing out that the accused in the case of attempting to assassinate George Bush were being tried before the State Security Court [words indistinct], that legal guarantees were given to the accused to defend themselves, that the court commissioned two lawyers to defend them, and that the accused had the right of appeal to the cassation [court] after the State Security Council passed its sentences. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Meets German Defense Secretary

LD0311131093 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, today received Joerg Schoenbohn, the German secretary of state at the Defense Ministry, at his office in Bayan palace. He also met the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Agrees To Write Off Debts

LD3110173893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1436 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait 31 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

The council examined a number of reports, including one by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah, in which he described the results of the initial investigations into the regrettable incident in which three Kuwaiti crewmen were martyred when their helicopters collided last Wednesday. The council expressed its deep sorrow over the loss of the crewmen.

The council also decided to approve a draft decree on the implementation of the first and second chapters of the executive bill on the state's purchase of certain debts and the appropriate procedures in connection with this. The draft decree is aimed at specifying measures on ways to purchase the debts, issue bonds, and settle the debts immediately, as well as ways of resolving the problem of earlier settlements and the forthcoming settlement to be made between 7 September 1993 and 6 September 1995. [passage omitted]

The council went on to express its deepest regret at the catastrophe that hit the southern part of California and the great damage caused by the fires.

On the local level, the council agreed that Thursday should be a day of rest on which government offices which can be found in the civil service list will be closed as from the beginning of 1994.

Saudi Arabia

'Senior' Official Denies Displeasure With Bonn

LD2810183993 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—A senior Saudi official has dismissed a German television report that Riyadh is displeased with Bonn's policies towards Tehran, reported the evening daily KEYHAN Thursday. The German t.v. network, Set One [SaT-1], has recently claimed that Riyadh is annoyed with Germany's policy towards Iran and will raise the issue with the German foreign minister in his forthcoming visit to Riyadh, KEYHAN added.

According to Radio Bushehr, Saudi radio quoted a senior Saudi official as categorically denying the German t.v. report. The Saudi official was also quoted as having said that Saudi Arabia welcomes expansion of relations between regional countries.

German Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets Petroleum Minister

LD0211154693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1259 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 2 Oct [dateline as received]—Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has conferred with Dr. Klaus Kinkel, German vice chancellor and foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted] The meeting dealt with a number of issues of mutual interest to the two countries, particularly those related to the oil and mineral sector.

Offers To Mediate With Iran

LD0211160493 Hamburg DPA in German 1443 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Jeddah (DPA)—Bonn is willing to act as a mediator in removing tensions between the Gulf states and Iran. Federal Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel made this offer to the leadership of Saudi Arabia. Germany could use its good relations with Tehran to improve Iran's relations with Arab countries, Kinkel said today at the conclusion of his two days of talks in Jeddah.

Saudi concern at Iran's intentions in the region was one of the focuses of his meetings with King Fahd and his most important ministers. The monarch accused the Iranian leadership of wanting to speed up its nuclear power program in order to be able to produce nuclear weapons more quickly. Kinkel gave an assurance that the two nuclear reactors that have been under construction in Iran for years would not be completed with German help. Kinkel said there had been no protest on the part of the Saudis at contacts between the German and Iranian secret services.

Defense and Aviation Minister Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud appealed to Kinkel for Germany to open up arms exports to his country. The foreign minister, on the other hand, made it clear that nothing would change in Germany's strict restraint in the immediate future. The Saudis urged Bonn to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims. Kinkel said in Jeddah that although Germany inclined toward this opinion, such a position would not prevail within the EC. For his part, the German foreign minister lobbied for the purchase of

Airbus and Fokker airplanes by the Saudis. His impression was that the chances of this were not completely hopeless. He also urged Saudi investment in Eastern Germany.

During his meeting with his opposite number Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, he gained support for Bonn's desire for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Kinkel said their shared view on how to proceed further in Somalia, where the Saudis have deployed 1,200 servicemen, was that a partial or complete withdrawal should only take place in close coordination with the United Nations. They were as much in agreement on the necessity of broadening the Middle East peace process by agreements with Syria and Lebanon as on the view that the Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn had to remain isolated.

He thanked Oil Minister Hisham Nazir for the country's moderating role in the pricing policy for oil. The German foreign minister drew a positive balance from his talks. They had shown that Germany and Saudi Arabia had close links. Tomorrow, Kinkel will fly from Jeddah to the Jordanian capital Amman for one day of talks.

Holds News Conference

LD0311101393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0055 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 2 Nov (SPA)—The German vice chancellor and foreign affairs minister, Dr. Klaus Kinkel, pointed out that his audience with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-Aziz, and his talks with Saudi officials, whom he met during his visit to the Kingdom, partly concentrated on the issue of the Middle East. He also pointed out that the views of the two sides coincided.

He said that he realized that there is Saudi support for the peace process in the Middle East.

In a speech opening a news conference he held today in Jeddah, he affirmed that the Saudi and German sides agreed that what has been achieved between the Palestinians and the Israelis is a first step to be followed by further steps to achieve peace on all courses. [passage omitted]

The German foreign minister pointed out that the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his desire to lift the arms embargo against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Kinkel affirmed that the two sides agreed that Saddam Husayn was the one who departed from international legitimacy and he should personally work toward returning his country to it.

He pointed out that his talks with the Saudi officials dealt with the situation in Somalia, where they agreed that, should there be a desire to reduce the number of forces there, it should be done in agreement with the UN.

The German vice chancellor and foreign affairs minister pointed out that the talks between the two sides on bilateral relations concentrated particularly on the economic side, pointing out that the two sides expressed their desire to invest in each other's country and set up joint companies.

The German minister expressed his country's desire to cooperate with the Kingdom in the aviation sphere and supply it with Airbus and Fokker planes, pointing out that his talks with his royal highness the defense and aviation minister dealt with this issue.

He said that the Saudi side expressed its desire to conclude the signing of an agreement between the two sides on protecting investment and capital that is currently in force or in application as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

The German minister praised the Saudi oil policy, affirming that Saudi Arabia has never used oil as a weapon to put pressure on any country, but has always played a moderate political role recognized by the whole world. [passage omitted]

Participation in Jerusalem Economic Forum Denied

LD0111192493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Nov (SPA)—Here is a denial of what Israel radio has mentioned about the participation of Saudi economists in an economics conference in Jerusalem.

In a statement to SPA, a responsible source today said that this news is completely unfounded.

Preferential Trade Status for PRC Approved

LD0111205493 Riyadh SPA in English 1942 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 1, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has expressed pride that Saudi nationals have proved their superiority and skills in different spheres of science, arts and the modern technology.

King Fahd's appreciation about the calibre of the Saudi nationals came during a regular weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers, which he presided at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah on Monday afternoon.

Its previous debate on some domestic issues including matters concerning the personnel of various educational levels. King Fahd stressed his keenness for going ahead with efforts being made by the various concerned bodies for bringing up young cadres on bases of authentic principles of the Islamic faith, excellent and dedicated morals with a concentration on good faith and the history of the nation.

At the same time, King Fahd instructed the concerned ministers to continue work with the aim of upgrading the

academic level of students, strengthening and developing curricula, particularly in universities and institutes of various specializations to enable the graduates to undertake their responsibilities in serving their religion and country as well as prompting them to ensure excellent performances.

Meanwhile, King Fahd reviewed with the cabinet a number of domestic issues on the agenda and listened to clarifications presented by Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz, the minister of interior, the minister of labour and social affairs and the minister of state, cabinet member and head of the civil service bureau on some matters including non-Saudi manpower. In the light of the discussion, King Fahd asked to continue studies on matters which had been reviewed earlier by the general committee of the Council of Ministers with the aim of reaching the best methods to deal with these matters in the framework of the best interest of the country and citizens.

The council, then, reviewed reports on the most important political and security developments in Arab and international arenas and the king briefed the cabinet about his views on these developments.

The cabinet authorized the minister of finance and national economy to answer a letter received from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of the People's Republic of China with a letter confirming that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to implement the status of the preferential state in terms of trade exchanges between the two countries in the framework of regulations applied by each country. The letter should be enclosed with a formula for an agreement to be signed by both sides before completion of regular procedures.

Finance Ministry Data on Exports, Imports

LD0111133993 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 1, SPA—The Saudi non-oil exports have amounted to sr [Saudi riyals] 5.8 billion in the first half of 1993, showing an increase of 1.2 per cent over the exports during the same period last year.

A press release issued by the General Statistics Department of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy said the Saudi imports dropped by 12 per cent in the first half of the current year compared to the same period in 1992 as these imports amounted to sr 60.2 billion.

The United States topped the list of exporters to the Kingdom with sr 10.7 billion, second came Britain with sr 7 billion, Japan third with sr 5.9 billion, Germany fourth with sr 3.2 billion and Italy fifth with sr 2.9 billion.

At the Arab level, Egypt topped the list of exporters to the Kingdom with sr 593 million, the United Arab Emirates second with sr 501 million, Bahrain third with sr 282 million, Jordan fourth with sr 210 million, Lebanon fifth with sr 185 million and Syria sixth with sr 181 million.

On the other hand, the Kingdom major importers of Saudi non-oil products were UAE, Kuwait, India, Australia and Japan.

The Saudi exports included food materials which fetched the country sr 889 million, equipment and electrical appliances with sr 233 million and paper and paper products with sr 181 million in the first half of 1993.

Yemen

Salih Denies 'Real' Political Crisis Exists

PM0311112693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] [Khayrallah] What course is the escalation in the current political crisis in Yemen taking, and are there signs of a solution?

[Salih] First of all, we do not believe there is a real crisis. Actually it is a crisis fabricated by the media, which are exploiting some differences among the coalition government parties over some issues and trying to arouse a big clamor over this question. Differing views are a normal thing. In fact they are a characteristic of democratic pluralism for the sake of achieving something better. When we achieved unity, we espoused democracy as a close parallel to unity. We chose it, not just as a form, but as a real concept and practice. Among democracy's requirements are interaction between opinion and counteropinion and acceptance of diversity and pluralism within the framework of common denominators and principles—which enrich the experiment and democratic practice, so that democracy will not become merely consultations and words. That is, it is accepted when it suits the whims and rejected when it it does not. But democracy means turning to the people's will through the ballot box and respecting the rights of both the majority and the minority. As we believe in democracy, dialogue will continue to be the ideal means to eliminate differences and resolve all disputes and difficulties. Indeed, dialogue is currently being conducted responsibly among the coalition parties over all the issues raised, in order to reach an agreement and achieve the Yemeni homeland's higher interests.

[Khayrallah] Does that mean that you agree to discuss the 19 points proposed by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]?

[Salih] A committee from the coalition is discussing the points proposed by the YSP, the points proposed by the General People's Congress [GPC], and the points proposed by the other political forces on the national scene. The dialogue is dealing with all these points, some of which were mentioned in the government's program on the basis of which it won the parliament's confidence, and it is its responsibility to implement them. Some

points represent marginal and unrealistic demands. They fall within the framework of political quarrels among parties, that is all.

[Khayrallah] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, your deputy and secretary general of the YSP, made numerous criticisms of the way the state is run, saying that you are running it by telephone. This is in addition to what he said in his interview with AL-HAYAH.

[Salih] First of all, I am not going to reply to any speeches or statements through the press. The GPC leadership has decided not to engage in the current war of statements, because this is not in the interests of Yemen and of unity. We are eager to work for what is likely to achieve an understanding among national ranks, deepen national unity, and consolidate democracy in isolation from provocations. But if it is necessary to clarify some facts, we will do so with the evidence and documents at the right time.

[Khayrallah] What about running the state by telephone?

[Salih] I cannot understand how a state can be run by telephone. We have legitimate and elected institutions which are exercising their powers in full in accordance with the Constitution and the law. I am exercising my powers as chairman of the Presidential Council in accordance with the Constitution, whether by telephone or through meetings and written instructions. The important thing is the substance, not the form.

[Khayrallah] Do you agree with the view that unity is in danger?

[Salih] It is an exaggeration to say that unity is in danger. I stress that unity is not in danger, because it is protected by God's care and the will of the Yemeni people, who are the real beneficiaries of unity and democracy. Unity does not belong to one person, party, or group. It belongs to all the Yemeni people, who made great sacrifices for many years for its sake. Partition has ended forever. The Yemeni people will not abandon their unity, whatever the cost, because as far as they are concerned, it is a rescue from a terrible nightmare they experienced under partition.

[Khayrallah] What is your opinion of what 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, said, namely that he does not want to see "a new Maronism in Yemen?"

[Salih] We do not want to engage in a war of press statements or words. The Yemeni people are one Arab Muslim people, among whom there are no minorities, nor can they be classified into groups on a sectarian, regional, or other basis. There is absolutely no discrimination among the Yemeni people. We have adopted the democratic option and refer to legitimate constitutional institutions. We must accept the people's will and choice through the ballot box, whatever their choice is. We do not want a split between the call for democracy and referral to the Constitution and actions that conflict with all this.

[Khayrallah] What is your opinion of the assassination attempt against 'Ali Salim al-Bid's sons, which claimed the life of his nephew in Aden, and who do you think is behind it?

[Salih] It is a regrettable incident and we condemn and denounce it. We also offer our heartfelt condolences to the deceased's family. In our view, this incident is the work of forces and quarters hostile to unity and democracy. They are known to our Yemeni people. Their aim is to kindle the fires of conflict and dispute among political forces, especially as the incident occurred in the wake of the progress achieved by the government coalition parties in current dialogues over the points proposed for discussion. It also occurred when brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid began to lean toward calm and toward avoiding press statements. Maybe they wanted to spark off disputes once again to obstruct any agreement between the coalition parties.

[Khayrallah] What is your opinion of the YSP's claim that it made concessions for the sake of the united state and that he introduced a state of law and order?

[Salih] We do not want to say much about the concessions question or who made concessions to whom. We all offered concessions, whether in the north or the south, not for the sake of one party but for the sake of the Yemeni people. We all jointly handed over two states and northern and southern institutions and set up a new state out of the debris of the partitioned state. The new state's mechanism is the one governing at present with its institutions and organs. True, the building process and the process of surmounting the legacy of partition are not easy, but we are confident that with further serious and sincere work we will surmount all difficulties and move our Yemeni homeland toward the desired horizons and aims which we drew up together on 22 May 1990.

Interviewed on 'Political Crisis'

PM01111142793 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Oct 93 pp14-15

[Interview with Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Usamah 'Ajaj in Sanaa, date not given]

[Text] ['Ajaj] In your view, how can the country's latest political crisis, related to the Presidential Council election and the post of vice president, be resolved in the course of the attempts to end the differences between leaders of the ruling coalition parties, especially between the General People's Congress [GPC] and and the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP]?

[Salih] First of all, there is no political crisis as alleged by the media, which perhaps do not understand the special nature of Yemeni realities, but there are differences of

opinion over some issues between the parties to the government coalition, namely the GPC, the YSP, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]. That is surely natural in a pluralistic democracy. There is dialogue among the coalition parties and also with the opposition parties in order to eliminate these differences and work jointly to resolve issues in the context of the common objectives and denominators and national interests. I do not believe that the differences that arose regarding the Presidential Council election or the constitutional amendments constitute a political crisis as suggested in your question. These were differences of opinion and the aim is to find a formula that would satisfy all parties and fulfill national interests. That is what happens in any democratic country.

['Ajjaj] What about the constitutional amendments issue, which is one of the focal points in the current polarization in Yemen? How can agreement be reached on this and how can this polarization be surmounted?

[Salih] It is now certain that all the coalition parties accept the principle of constitutional amendments based on a national vision, new developments, and the requirements of higher interests. That matter is now being debated by the House of Representatives, which is the body authorized to discuss it in the current atmosphere of understanding and dialogue among the political parties, especially the government coalition parties. The constitutional amendments will be debated at length in the House of Representatives to come up with the right national formula that would fulfill the aspiration to the building of a modern state.

['Ajjaj] Is it your view that Yemen still has not overcome the post-unity problems? What about the fears of a real threat to the unity state, particularly as such important tasks as the army unification have not been completed yet, although more than three years have elapsed since unity was achieved?

[Salih] I do not know why some people believe that unity brought problems, when we know very well that had the homeland not been united there would have been many problems and challenges. Unity was our people's salvation from the terrible nightmare of partition. With the fulfillment of our big national Yemeni dream on 22 May 1990, all the residues and vestiges of the partition, however big, became things of the past, and our people have proven themselves throughout the years to be capable of surmounting them just as they surmounted many other difficulties and challenges since the revolution. God willing, they will overcome all the difficulties which emerged since the reunification of the Yemeni homeland.

['Ajjaj] What about the postponement of the measures for army unification?

[Salih] Regarding completion of the merger, rebuilding, and modernization of the armed forces on a practical national basis, the coalition government is giving this matter priority in accordance with the program on the basis of which it won the House of Representatives' vote of confidence. We are optimistic about Yemen's future, which, God willing, will bring prosperity.

['Ajjaj] An examination of the Yemeni political situation would easily show that the first task is to solve the economic problem. What methods and means has the Yemeni Government used in this connection, and can oil be relied on as one of the ways of solving the economic problem?

[Salih] There can be no doubt that the economic concern is our main challenge, particularly because of the negative effects of the Gulf crisis on the economy after the return of over 1.2 million Yemeni expatriates. The government is giving that matter its full attention. It tops the political program on the basis of which it won the House of Representatives' vote of confidence. We greatly depend on the resources of our own country and on the advantages gained under the new investment law, which attract local, Arab, and foreign investors whom we welcome and offer all possible facilities. There is no doubt that oil is one of the main important factors on which we depend in remedying the economic situation in our country, in addition to agricultural development.

['Ajjaj] How do you view the foreign campaigns facing Yemen from time to time, the latest being the allegations about human rights violations and about the conditions of Jews in Yemen?

[Salih] So long as our steps are steady and confident we do not care about and are not bothered by any foreign campaign. On the contrary, this increases our faith in our experiment, particularly as such campaigns are launched by forces known for their hostility to unity and democracy in our country.

As regards human rights, our country's democratic pluralistic system is based on freedom, respect for the opposite opinion, and human rights. We in Yemen are proud that there are no political prisoners in our country. As regards Yemeni Jews, they are Yemeni citizens with all the rights and duties under the constitution.

['Ajjaj] How is Yemen handling its foreign relations with its neighbors, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, particularly as the consequences of the Gulf crisis still govern many things in the region? Are any efforts being made to normalize relations with Kuwait?

[Salih] Our relations with others are governed by firm and consistent principles based on mutual respect, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, and positive cooperation to serve mutual interests. Since its birth on 22 May, the Yemeni Republic has been trying to establish relations with all its brother countries, especially in the Gulf. I do not believe that any tremors or crises can obstruct these relations or shake their foundations. The Gulf crisis is a passing crisis and its effects should be eliminated because they have reflected adversely on everyone. We believe that, bearing in mind current changes, the time has come to overcome the

consequences of that crisis and to work sincerely for the restoration of Arab solidarity.

['Ajjaj] Do you not believe that Yemen is perhaps required to play a part in solving the problem of Kuwaiti POWs or persuading Iraq to recognize international border demarcation resolutions as a part of the attempts to normalize relations with the states of the region, which is what Kuwait is requesting?

[Salih] We have announced on more than one occasion that we would not hesitate to mediate between brothers to solve outstanding problems between them if asked to do so. It is in the interest of the brothers to solve the problems between them, particularly border problems, through dialogue in a friendly and cordial atmosphere with the two sides discussing, at the negotiating table, everything to secure their common interests.

['Ajjaj] How would you describe Yemeni-Iraqi relations? Could one say that Yemen has revised its position on the Gulf War?

[Salih] Our relations with the Iraqi brothers, like our relations with all the other brothers, are normal. Our positions on all issues have been made public, including our position on the Gulf crisis. We have urged, on more than one occasion, that that painful page should be closed and that a new one started in inter-Arab relations with a view to restoring Arab solidarity and joint work in the interest of pan-Arab objectives.

['Ajjaj] What about Yemeni-Saudi relations? Why was the meeting between the two delegations seeking a solution to the border problems postponed?

[Salih] We have historic links with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia cemented through dialogue and the common historic interests of the two fraternal peoples. As regards the experts committee and negotiations on Yemeni-Saudi borders, its meetings were postponed at the request of the Saudis, who then called for the resumption of the negotiations. It is meeting this week in Riyadh. We in Yemen have reaffirmed our readiness to settle the border issue with our Saudi brothers through negotiation on the basis of "no harm and no disadvantage" to fulfill the legal rights of both sides.

['Ajjaj] [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has made an initiative for comprehensive Arab reconciliation. Some observers believe there will be moves to approve it in the near future. Do you have any suggestions regarding such reconciliation and guarantees of success?

[Salih] From the very first moment of the crisis, we in Yemen have been interested in anything that would consolidate Arab solidarity and unity of ranks and positions. We have expressed support for every Arab endeavor, through the Arab League or any other channel, to bring about Arab reconciliation and restore Arab solidarity. The Arabs need reconciliation and frankness in order to establish sound and firm inter-Arab relations.

['Ajjaj] The Arab League has postponed discussion and approval of its report on Arab national security. Do you not believe that the current circumstances require agreement on the minimum requirements for the preservation of national security after identifying the sources of the threats to the Arab system?

[Salih] We believe that the sound way to tackle the current Arab situation is, first, work for the restoration of trust between brothers, and then a search for the appropriate mechanism for joint Arab action for the preservation of pan-Arab security, which is an integral whole and also an integral part of the security of every Arab state, be it in the Arab East or the Arab West.

['Ajjaj] How, in your view, can Egyptian-Yemeni relations be restored to normal, bearing in mind the postponement, more than once, of the meeting of the Higher Joint Committee for cooperation between the two countries?

[Salih] Egyptian-Yemeni relations are warm, fraternal, historic, and baptized in blood, and they will remain so in all conditions and circumstances. There is no reason to believe that our realtions with Egypt are not normal and that we should try to normalize them. They are excellent fraternal relations based on amity, respect, and positive cooperation. We are determined to continue to develop these excellent relations and steer them in the direction that would fulfill the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples to live up to the level of their joint struggle and sacrifices and to fulfill their mutual and common interests and serve the aims of our Arab nation.

['Ajjaj] We know that you are concerned about the situation in Somalia. What, in your view, is the way to end that tragiF situation, which has become a political crisis, and how is a solution to be achieved in Somalia?

[Salih] From the beginning of the conflict in fraternal Somalia, we have supported the principle of containing the crisis by peaceful means and through amicable dialogue between the various conflicting Somali factions, and we have exerted considerable efforts in that direction because of the direct effects of the Somali crisis on our country, which, because of that crisis, has received thousands of Somali and other refugees. We have backed and supported all efforts aimed at establishing peace and stability in Somalia, especially UN efforts. We believe that dialogue and peaceful negotiations between the various factions in Somalia with the aim of finding the right political formula that would guarantee participation of all Somali forces in shouldering the responsibility of building Somalia, is the ideal way to end the Somali crisis and the sufferings of the fraternal Somali people.

['Ajjaj] What is the way to settle the inter-Palestinian differences over the Gaza-Jericho agreement? You have offered to host a meeting of representatives of the PLO, Hamas, and the other factions.

[Salih] We in Yemen are interested in inter-Palestinian accord, even with the existence of differences over any

fateful issue which is healthy and natural. When we expressed willingness to host a meeting of the various Palestinian factions in Sanaa, we did so because we did not wish to see sensitivities or conflicts between the Palestinians because of the positions taken on the autonomy declaration of principles known as "Gaza-Jericho first." We have called for a meeting of the factions in Sanaa to unify the Palestinian position on the basis of constant principles to spare the Palestinians the shedding of Palestinian blood by Palestinians because of differences over recent developments.

['Ajjaj] The phenomenon of religious terrorism is one of the worries of the states of the region with the increasing fundamentalist tide. Yemen may not be immune from the effects of that phenomenon with the existenece of Yemeni Afghans. How do you view that phenomenon and how should it be tackled?

[Salih] We in Yemen have chosen the course of democracy, which gives everyone the right to participation and free expression of political views, affiliations, and ideologies in the manner stated in the constitution and the current laws. All the political parties and organizations know where they stand in this context. There are no problems in this respect. You have, perhaps, freely observed the government's tripartite coalition, in which the YRG and the Muslim Brotherhood participate alongside the GPC and the YSP in shouldering the responsibilities of building the homeland. This is a Yemeni formula based on the special nature of Yemeni realities and higher national interests requirements.

As regards terrorism and extremism, whether from the left or the right, they are rejected in all forms and shapes in our society. We believe that opening the way to everyone's participation and to dialogue for resolving differences and different views and concepts is the ideal way to spare society any political conflicts or tensions. Recourse to violence as an only option against any phenomenon would only lead to more violence, tension, and extremism, which brings society nothing but more harm and instability.

House of Representatives Discusses 'Crisis'

JN0211131793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session this morning under its speaker 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. The brother representatives discussed the current conditions and developments of the crisis in the country.

The representatives' discussion dealt in an objective way with the causes and motives of the crisis, both the fabricated and the real ones, with the aim of understanding the defects and negative aspects that have created the crisis since the establishment of unity and during the transitional phase, and the continuation of the crisis through the current phase. Observations by the brother representatives stressed the need for the House to carry out its duties in a serious and credible manner and to work for containing the crisis in a disinterested and objective way, with the aim of realizing the supreme interests of the country and society. They stressed that the House speakership should carry out its effective role in its capacity as the representative of the House that represents the entire Yemeni people.

The Representatives' observations emphasized that dealing with the crisis by the House should be based on a patriotic platform, which should not be party to any partisan organizations, political blocs, or party leaderships or to any trend except the interests of the people and the country so that the House of Representative would emerge with one concept and a cohesive stand toward the crisis and draw up sound, practical, and realistic solutions to deal with it.

Discussions and observations called for the need for the leadership of the coalition to study and discuss all points presented by all sides in order to come out with sound proposals to solve all the problems created by the crisis. This crisis, they said, led to the weakness of the local currency against foreign currencies, resulting in unstable economic conditions, hoarding of commodities, and a rise in prices, especially the basic commodities and foodstuffs.

The representatives' discussions demanded that the House play an effective, serious role to contain the crisis and extricate the great Yemeni homeland from this affliction and work to entrench the united State of Yemen and protect it against all harm and complications.

Eritrean President Pays 3-Day Official Visit

Arrives in Sanaa

JN3010124893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Leading a high-level delegation, Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki arrived in Sanaa at 1200 today on an official three-day visit to our country. The visit is in response to the invitation of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman.

Yemen's honored guest was accorded a grand official and popular welcome. Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih led those who welcomed him at Sanaa International Airport. [passage omitted]

Official Talks Begin

JN3010212993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] A round of official talks between our country and sisterly and neighboring Eritrea started at the Presidential Palace today. The session was co-chaired by brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki, who is currently on a visit to our country.

At the outset of the session, cordial speeches were exchanged. Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, welcomed his dear guest, Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki and his delegation, wishing them good stay and a successful visit. He noted the major importance assumed by this visit, which will open new horizons for developing and strengthening the ties of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

The brother Presidential Council chairman also noted the historic, deep-rooted ties and close links between the Yemeni and Eritrean peoples, which are based on good neighborliness, mutual respect, and positive cooperation. He said each country provide a strategic depth and security to the other.

Brother Lt. Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, explained that the established links between the two countries and their sincere desire to cooperate together provide a strong base for taking the bilateral ties to new horizons.

He stressed the need to strengthen consultation and coordination between the leaders of both countries to serve the common interests and objectives of the Yemeni and Eritrean revolutions, and, consequently, strengthen the role of Yemen and Eritrea and activate their positive contribution to security and stability in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea regions.

The Presidential Council chairman also stressed the need for all regional regimes, governments, and peoples to pool their efforts to help resolve the various crises in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea regions in general, and resolve the Somali crisis and restore security and stability in Somalia, in particular.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said Yemen will not spare any effort to contribute to any effort or action seeking to bring things in the region back to normal and help the region's economic and social development march.

For his part, President Isayas Afewerki voiced his great happiness for visiting our country and expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality which he and his delegation were accorded. He praised the major achievements scored by our Yemeni people and their political leadership under brother Lt. Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the levels of unity and democracy.

The Eritrean president stressed that the importance of this visit to Yemen stems from the common desires of the two neighboring countries to take executive steps and measures to advance the Yemeni-Eritrean ties to higher levels and help embody the hopes and aspirations of the fraternal Yemeni and Eritrean peoples. The Eritrean president also hailed our country's efforts and effective contribution to help resolve the regional crises. He said he is certain these sincere and noble efforts will continue on the basis of the great weight of, and major role played by Yemen in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea regions, and for the benefit of the region and its peoples.

During the session, the conferees discussed the various aspects of the fraternal ties and means to improve them. They also discussed the fields of common cooperation, particularly cooperation in the economic fields, fisheries, and Red Sea environment protection.

The two sides voiced desire to improve ties and open new horizons of cooperation that serve the joint interests and mutual benefits of the two peoples.

They also discussed developments on the regional arena and the Horn of Africa, particularly developments in Somalia and the role the two fraternal countries can play to help the march of security, stability, and peace in the Horn of Africa. [passage omitted]

Meets With Prime Minister

JN3110143393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Isayas Afewerki of Eritrea received Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas at his place of residence at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa this morning. At the outset of the meeting, the brother prime minister welcomed the Eritrean president and the delegation accompanying him, wishing them a good stay. [words indistinct] the strong ties between the two fraternal and neighboring countries.

Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas briefed the Eritrean president on the strides Yemen has made along the road of unity, democracy, and construction. Brother al-'Attas underscored the importance of enhancing and promoting the fraternal ties of bilateral cooperation [words indistinct] to achieve stability and development for the peoples of the region; (?identify) additional areas for bilateral cooperation in the economic, cultural, and social domains; and effect coordination on issues of common interest.

For his part, the Eritrean president underscored the strong ties and association between the two fraternal peoples. He noted the importance of promoting these ties in the interest of the two countries to foster cooperation in various spheres in line with the strategic importance of these ties, the quest for development, as well as changes on the regional and international scenes.

During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal ties of cooperation between the two countries, the means to promote and enhance them, and efforts to create a mechanism to develop these ties to achieve the desired objectives. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement to Media

EA3110183593 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpts] President Isayas Afewerki is in Yemen at the invitation of the Yemeni Government. President Isayas

was met by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih and other high-ranking officials of the government on arrival at the Yemeni International Airport. [passage omitted]

President Isayas, in his statement to the Yemeni television and news agency, noted that his visit was to strengthen the longstanding historical relations of the two peoples. He said that it will also help to develop the interests of the two peoples.

The two leaders held the first round of talks in the Yemeni Presidential Palace yesterday evening. They discussed at length bilateral relations and cooperation in various sectors such as the economy, water resources conservation, the security situation in the Horn of Africa and the Somali issue in particular. [passage omitted]

Received by al-Bid in Aden

JN0111161493 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Isyayas Afewerki of Eritrea arrived in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, within the framework of his visit to our country.

He was received at Aden International Airport by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN0211085993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpt] A cooperation agreement between our country's Interior Ministry and that of sisterly Eritrea was signed at the Interior Ministry today. The agreement includes cooperation between the two ministries in various fields as well as coordination and consultation on stands toward regional and international issues.

The agreement was signed for our country by Muhammad Salim al-Mutawakkil, the minister of interior, and for Eritrea by brother Ali Sayyid Abdallah, the Eritrean minister of internal affairs. [passage omitted]

Ends Official Talks, Departs

JN0211153993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] The official session of talks between Yemen and Eritrea ended at the Presidency at noon today under the leadership of Lieutenant General 'Ali Abdallah Salih and Eritrean President His Excellency Isyayas Afewerki. During this session, the two sides completed discussion of issues and topics that were discussed in the previous session. Topics covered the fields of fraternal cooperation between the two countries and ways of promoting them in a manner that will enhance the common objectives and interests of the two people in the two fraternal countries. They also discussed the current situation in the Arab and African arenas.

The Eritrean president left Sanaa this morning at the end of a visit to the economic and trade capital of Aden, which was part of his tour of our country. During this stop he met with brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, as well as other officials.

Joint Statement Issued on Visit

JN0211191593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Joint statement on Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki's visit to the Republic of Yemen, issued in "Sanaa and Asmara" on 2 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Emanating from the ties of brotherhood and cooperation between the Republic of Yemen and the State of Eritrea, Isayas Afewerki, president of the State of Eritrea, paid a visit to the Republic of Yemen between 30 October and 2 November, in response to an invitation from his brother, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen.

During the visit, the two sides held official talks on various aspects of their bilateral ties and means of enhancing them, as well as means of increasing the prospects and fields of cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

The two sides also discussed regional and international issues and developments that concern the two neighboring states, particularly developments in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea regions. They also discussed the tragic events in Somalia. The two sides stressed the need for a political solution to the Somali crisis in accordance with the will of the Somali people, through a constructive and positive dialogue among all Somali factions and forces in order to entrench national unity and restore security and stability to Somalia.

They also stressed their determination to work together to preserve security and stability in the Red Sea region and cooperate with all Red Sea littoral states.

The two sides voiced their deep desire to improve their bilateral ties and widen the prospects for cooperation in all fields in a way that serves the common interests and benefits of the two neighborly peoples.

During the visit, an agreement for security and technical cooperation was signed between the interior ministries of the two neighboring countries in expression of the joint desire to improve the cooperation that can fulfill the two countries' interests in that regard.

His Excellency President Isayas Afewerki voiced his satisfaction and appreciation for the cordial welcome he and his delegation were accorded during their visit to the Republic of Yemen. He also invited his brother, His Excellency Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, to visit the state of Eritrea. His excellency accepted the invitation, and a date will be set at a later time.

[dated] Issued in Sanaa on 2 November 1993

Demirel Praise for 'Poised Hammer' Criticized

JN0311113793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has criticized Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's recent statements on what he termed the necessary presence of the allies' [Poised] Hammer Forces in southern Turkey.

In its editorial, the newspaper affirms that these statements run counter to the statements made by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and other Turkish officials that Turkey has suffered grave losses as result of the blockade imposed on Iraq. According to their estimates, Turkey has lost $16 billion as a result of the blockade.

The paper explains that by praising the Hammer Forces, Demirel this time begins from where his predecessor Ozal left off in terms of acting against the interests of Turkey, Iraq, and all states. The paper says that as a result of the presence of these forces, the economic situation has deteriorated and the Turkish central authorities have lost control of the security situation.

The paper says that if Mr. Demirel is "concerned about the Kurds of Iraq," then why does he allow Turkey's Kurds to be annihilated through massive military operations that take place under the nose of the Hammer Forces?

Concluding its article, the paper says that the statements on northern Iraq or other parts of it are unfounded. Iraq has no illegitimate objectives or intentions in the region. It affirms that the wounds caused by crises between nations should not have salt poured on them, they should be treated with water and antiseptics.

Yesterday, the Turkish president stated that the presence of the allied troops in southern Turkey was necessary for what he called "safeguarding the people of northern Iraq against the Baghdad regime."

Ministry Denies Electricity Deliberately Cut

JN0211203693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Biased foreign news agencies and radios are circulating reports on power failure in Dahuk Governorate, suggesting that the Iraqi authorities have deliberately turned off the power supply.

On this subject, and in order to inform our Kurdish citizens in particular, and the steadfast Iraqi people in general, about the truth of this issue, an authorized source at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals has stated the following:

The electric power failure in Dahuk Governorate areas since 10 August 1993 is due to the fact that it was impossible to replace the damaged parts of the electricity network in the supply source for this governorate. Necessary spare parts are unavailable as a result of the unfair blockade and the fact that the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee has not agreed to allow Iraq to import material, equipment, and machinery needed for the electricity network, including the necessary spare parts for this supply station. We exerted efforts on all levels, including the concerned UN agencies and the international humanitarian organizations, to allow the importation of that material since electricity is considered a basic human need, just like food and medicine. However, the Sanctions Committee has not so far approved any of our requests.

The technical staff working in the electricity sector have exerted exceptional efforts within their own, available resources to repair the source supplying power to Dahuk Governorate. These efforts, however, failed. Tests were conducted, time and again, to restore electrical current to the Governorate, but failed because of the above mentioned reasons.

What complicated matters even further was the fact that the deceived cliques in the northern parts of the country had sabotaged and stolen lines carrying electrical power to this Governorate, including towers and cables. If the news agencies and radios circulating this news are concerned about our Kurdish people, then they should join us in demanding that the United Nations end the blockade imposed on importing the material needed for the electricity network since electricity is a basic human need, just like food and medicine. They should also join us in demanding the unfreezing of Iraqi assets abroad to enable us to purchase the necessary material. Furthermore, they should pressure the cliques of deception and treachery that are backed by the spears of the foreigner in our beloved northern area to stop stealing and tampering with the components of the electricity network in the autonomous region.

Kurdistan Free Labor Party Established

NC3110185193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] The first conference of Kurdistan Communists ended in Irbil yesterday afternoon with an announcement of the establishment of the Kurdistan Free Labor Party. Hashim Kushani, official spokesman of the party, said at a news conference that the conference of Kurdistan Communists was held from 22 to 27 October and ended with the establishment of the Kurdistan Free Labor Party.

Saddam Receives Cable From Pakistani Premier

JN0211195693 Baghdad INA in English 1720 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 2, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a telegram of thanks from Pakistani Premier Mrs. Benazir Bhutto in reply to his congratulations on her assumption of the premiership in Pakistan.

In her telegram, Premier Bhutto said that the close ties binding Iraq and Pakistan were a source of satisfaction for her and that Pakistan supports the sovereignty and integrity of Iraq and that the Iraqi people would soon manage to surmount the current hardships and continue their march toward progress and prosperity.

Mrs. Bhutto added that part of her government policy is to boost the existing relations of friendship between Iraq and Pakistan and wished President Husayn good health and happiness and the Iraqi people prosperity.

Paper Views 'Sharp Decline' in Clinton Popularity

JN0211162393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has noted that the sharp decline in U.S. President Clinton's popularity, as a result of his futile policy in Somalia and other Arab and world states, has forced him into deciding to withdraw his forces from Somalia.

In an article today, the paper says that Clinton's popularity has sustained heavy losses, so the world press is of the opinion that Aidid defeated Clinton. Despite terrible pressures, the U.S. forces could not reach this Somali national leader, nor could they silence the voice of the Somali people and their brave resistance in defense of their land.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Events have shown that withdrawal is the only alternative for Clinton. The U.S. politicians advised Clinton to withdraw from Somalia, criticized him publicly for his unbalanced conduct on Somalia and foreign policy, and described his decisions on this starving African country as unsuccessful.

Concluding, the paper says: Events indicate that the Somali national leader Aidid is the one who chased Clinton, a fact that has begun to be realized in other world countries. Moreover, resistance and defiance have been so significant that the United States is fearing their spread elsewhere, especially since the great spark was ignited in the epic of the Mother of Battles in Iraq.

Civil Defense Defuses Mines, Hand Grenades

JN0211161693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Al-Ramadi, 2 Nov (INA)—Last month, the competent forces in the Civil Defense Department in the al-Anbar Governorate defused 8,212 mines and hand grenades dropped by the aircraft of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic alliance on residential areas in the governorate.

The civil defense director in the governorate said that since the beginning of the aggression, the competent forces have thus far defused 144,676 cluster bombs, mines, and hand grenades in addition to 20 Cruise missiles and 208 air-to-surface missiles. He added that the department continues to search for bombs left over by the treacherous 30-state aggression.

Cairo Paper Interviews Peres on Peace Process

NC0211210993 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 31 Oct 93 pp 16-18

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by UKTUBAR correspondent Husayn Siraj in Peres' office in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] [Siraj] Mr. Peres, when did you decide that there was someone to talk to and that Palestinian President 'Arafat was that person?

[Peres] It happened at the moment that I discovered that the PLO was about to vanish. The PLO was so weak that I feared it would disappear from the political map. At that time, I asked myself: Who will take its place? Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? This is why I decided it was better to negotiate with the PLO in its capacity as the most logical partner. I did not agree to talk with the PLO until it agreed to change some of the articles of the Palestinian National Covenant and halt and confront terrorism.

[Siraj] Nevertheless, Palestinian President 'Arafat talks about establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Peres] 'Arafat annoys us, but he has the right to speak. We agreed to discuss the final settlement at the end of two years, that is, at the beginning of the third year.

[Siraj] In Israel, they are saying that you wanted to reach a settlement at any price. What is your reply?

[Peres] There are bad people everywhere. Those who are saying this think that the current situation will force the other party to pay a higher price. I think, however, that the current situation requires the other party to pay a cheaper price. What exactly do these people want? Do they want the situation to remain unchanged? I think they misjudge the situation.

[Siraj] The Declaration of Principles that you signed with the Palestinians is a newborn that needs urgent care. Anything that threatens its life must be avoided. Don't you think that the presence of settlers in Gush Qatif, in the Gaza Strip, to cite one example, will create friction between the settlers and the Palestinians, something that will adversely affect the agreement?

[Peres] This will not necessarily damage relations or the agreement itself. There are Arab communities inside Israel living under Jewish rule. Why shouldn't there be Jewish communities living under Arab rule? I believe that in the context of peace such matters will not be very important. If we become preoccupied by the settlements and the settlers, then I cannot say whether we can have a majority in the Knesset. We also have our problems. We are a democratic society that occupies itself with practical issues, not theoretical ones. Our society is concerned with what can or cannot be done. This entire issue does not disturb us.

[Siraj] Speaking of the Arab communities inside Israel, recent reports have talked about an Arab Muslim ambassador representing Israel abroad, the first such ambassador.

[Peres] This is true.

[Siraj] When will this happen?

[Peres] A final decision on this matter will be made in the next two or three weeks.

[Siraj] Is the nominee for this post Judge Yusuf al-Hajj Yahya?

[Peres] It is almost certain that he is the nominee. He will represent Israel in a Scandinavian country.

[Siraj] Mr. Peres, how do you envisage the final settlement with the Palestinians?

[Peres] I believe that the real problem is among three parties, not two parties. It is the problem of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians. First of all, a solution must be reached between Jordan and the Palestinians. Without such a solution, it will be very difficult to reach a final solution. For this reason, I attach great importance to Jordanian-Palestinian relations. I believe that we must establish a tripartite framework to link the three parties economically and a bilateral framework linking Jordan and the Palestinians politically. The fact is that a large portion of the Palestinian people live in Jordan. Both the Palestinians and the Jordanians never forget this. Consequently, the final settlement will require a comprehensive framework.

[Siraj] Speaking of Jordan, how many hours did you spend with King Husayn?

[Peres] Everyone knows that those were secret talks. Since this is the case, I will not tell you how many hours I spent with him.

[Siraj] Relations between you and Prime Minister Rabin have been characterized by competition and conflict over the leadership of the Likud Party on the one hand, and differences over the political currents of each of you on the other. However, it became clear recently that you understand and cooperate with each other as much as possible. This became evident during the agreement with the Palestinians. How do you justify this?

[Peres] If you keep up your differences, you will not be able to function. One has to abandon differences. Both of us, Rabin and myself, are forced to work with each other and this is the only consideration we make. Each of us in his own way thought that taking individual action would prevent us from pushing the wheel forward.

[Siraj] Rabin made a surprise visit to Morocco on his way back from Washington after signing the Declaration of Principles. There have been reports about an imminent announcement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and each of the countries of

Morocco and Tunisia. Recently, he also visited Indonesia and there were similar reports about this visit. However, nothing happened. Why?

[Peres] It seems there are many nations and countries that act slowly when compared with Egypt. They must understand that it is better to make the leap in one step rather than two small steps.

[Siraj] It is said that after signing the Declaration of Principles between you and the Palestinians, President al-Asad's negotiating power diminished. What is your opinion on that?

[Peres] The Syrians want to get the same results Egypt got without negotiating. There were some steps that preceded the peace process with Egypt, such as the agreement on the disengagement of forces and the interim agreement. In addition, one should not forget that al-Sadat visited Jerusalem and met with all the ministers in the cabinet. The Syrians believe that negotiations hurt their pride.

[Siraj] There is talk about Majdal Shams [in the Golan Heights]. First, along the lines of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. How true is that and do you expect progress on the Syrian track?

[Peres] I hope this will happen; however, the issue does not depend on Majdal Shams, but on the essence of peace itself. The issue is not an issue of land; it is, in actual fact, a political issue between the two sides.

[Siraj] What did you expect Likud's reaction to be to the signing of the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinians? Did you expect the opposition to be as acute as it was or did you believe that it would be more moderate?

[Peres] I thought the reaction would be saner, but I was disappointed. The reaction was downright stupid. I was leader of the opposition when [former] Prime Minister Begin responded to al-Sadat's peace initiative. I suggested to the opposition at that time to vote in favor of the peace process. Likud should have voted in favor of peace and emerged with greater wisdom from the process.

[Siraj] Likud are the ones who made peace with Egypt. This is a fact no one denies. Do you believe the reaction would have been this strong had Begin been alive?

[Peres] It is difficult to know. But the issue here does not depend on Begin's personality. He is an exceptional and unique case. There was a government then which included 'Ezer Weizman, Moshe Dayan, and Yig'al Yadin. We, the opposition, used to support the coalition, a stand that will not be repeated. However, we also need to take into consideration al-Sadat's stand from the peace process. Begin alone did not have the lion's share in the peace process. Al-Sadat played the bigger role in pushing peace forward.

[Siraj] Mr. Peres, you recently met with President Mubarak in Cairo. How was the meeting, and how do you view Egypt's role between you and Syria?

[Peres] The meeting was more than excellent, and I believe President Mubarak is building political bridges both inside and outside Egypt. Naturally, the Egyptians want a comprehensive peace, as we also do. However, we are not traffic police. We will negotiate with whoever comes first. Egypt came first, then the Palestinians. When the Jordanians come, we will negotiate with them, and if the Syrians come before they do, we will negotiate with the Syrians, too.

The process of establishing a comprehensive peace does not represent a problem between us and Egypt. The problem is basically related to other parties' political stands. Syria, for example, does not want this and adopts illogical stands. Egypt advises the Syrians to initiate a dialogue and clarify their intentions regarding peace.

[Siraj] A meeting was held in Cairo last year between you and Egyptian intellectuals and former military commanders. By all standards, this meeting was successful. Why don't such meetings happen again?

[Peres] I am completely ready to attend whenever they invite me. I attach great importance to such meetings.

[Siraj] What is your impression of that meeting?

[Peres] I believe they presented all their stands requiring further consideration. I am pleased by meetings like this, and my impression of them is very good. They are cultured people, with a great deal of experience, and they tried to analyze what happened in the past. But I believe that it is more important to focus on the future, because the world has changed.

[Siraj] Mr. Peres, there are Egyptians who are very enthusiastic about projects relating to a new Middle East. Whose ideas and visions do you consider in line with yours?

[Peres] I believe that Dr. Mustafa Khalil [former Egyptian prime minister] has an economic ideology and a completely sound political vision that is compatible with our ideology and vision. I also believe that we can all benefit from his ideas about building a new Middle East—a Middle East that works for the service of mankind in the region, for stability, and for raising living standards without any pressure. Everyone speaks his own language and worships his own God, but economic cooperation is necessary because this is a blessed region.

[Siraj] Israeli newspapers recently published reports about the government holding contacts with the Arab Democratic Party and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (HADASH) with a view toward bringing them into the coalition. How true are these reports?

[Peres] I believe this is a merely parliamentary issue and not at all political. Our primary concern is to mobilize the Knesset majority or even those who abstain from

voting. The point here is not achieving a majority with these two parties. It can be said that even if these two parties joined the coalition, the religious parties would vote against us, and it is our duty to take such matters into consideration.

[Siraj] Speaking of the religious parties, there is talk about returning SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to the coalition, and it has been reported that the movement has set the condition that Rabbi Moshe Maya replace Interior Minister Arye Der'i, who resigned.

[Peres] If this is the only obstacle, we will overcome it. If the appointment of Rabbi Moshe Maya is the only condition, we will reach a solution.

[Siraj] But do you believe that they—I mean, SHAS—are real partners?

[Peres] Yes, they are real and very important partners because they increase our majority in the Knesset from 61 to 67.

[Siraj] How do you envision Gaza and Jericho five years from now?

[Peres] Five years are not enough. I would like to see Gaza become like Singapore. There is great similarity [between them], because the area is small and the population is very large. If they do well, this will come true. Personally, I like Jericho. It is unique. It grows the best oranges and bananas, and it is a beautiful area. I believe it could become a magnificent winter resort and a first-class tourist city.

[Siraj] Is there fear in Israel about the establishment of a port in Gaza?

[Peres] No, not at all.

[Siraj] Talks are taking place between you and the Palestinians in Cairo and Taba. How do you view the outcome of these talks?

[Peres] The results so far have been extremely good, and they were achieved quickly. It seems to me that the Nile has replaced the Potomac River, and Cairo has replaced Washington. I think that the meetings that are held between the Israelis and the Palestinians in Cairo are an innovation that vitalizes the peace process. It is enough to note that we have reached agreement on the agenda and the formation of the committees much faster than in Washington. The meetings were dominated by an extremely good atmosphere. The results of these meetings were sort of messages addressed to the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, and this is a very important psychological achievement.

[Siraj] Mr. Peres, how do you see the future of cooperation between you and the Palestinians on the one hand and between you and the Arab states on the other?

[Peres] I see various kinds of cooperation between us and the Palestinians in the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean. We do not want just an implementation of the agreement, we want it to succeed. I think that the neighbor who lives in prosperity is a good neighbor, and vice versa. We want our neighbors to live in prosperity.

As for the tripartite framework that includes Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel, the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, and the Ha'Arava unite the three of us. It is possible to change this from a line of confrontation into huge economic wealth.

There is also a quadripartite group that includes Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel, bound together by mutual confidence, the common sea, and the common future. This group has its institutions, as stipulated by the Declaration of Principles agreement which was signed with the Palestinians, and which called for the establishment of a permanent Palestinian-Israeli committee for economic cooperation, and the agreement of the donors conference.

Finally, there is a broader framework involving the whole Middle East. I think that security in the area cannot be achieved without security in the entire region. The range of security cannot be less than the range of missiles.

I also think that there are problems pertaining to water, the desert, and the infrastructure, and all of these are regional problems which must be solved. The Middle East must mold its future image.

I know that many think that Israel is seeking to dominate the region. This is nonsense and unfounded. Today there is competition, and only the best wins. We do not want to impose anything on the Arabs. We do not want to dominate them. We only tell our Arab neighbors that there are several problems that must be resolved in a regional framework. I think that through understanding and cooperation among ourselves we will succeed in solving the problems of the desert, waters, infrastructure, and tourism. We will then build a new regional structure—that is, a common Middle Eastern market.

The problem facing the Arab states and Israel is not the territory or the population but the standard of living. The real problem that we all face lies in whether our standard of living is high as it is in Europe, or low. We must work together to raise the standard of living in the area. We must work together to build a social market rather than a geographic market. If we want a common market, we must work together always to raise the standard of living.

Minister on Talks With Syria, PLO Arrangements

TA0311141793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Health Minister Ramon said in the Knesset today that President Clinton and President Mubarak have still not received a clear answer from President al-Asad

regarding the substance of peace and the security arrangements he is willing to implement with Israel. He also said that the negotiations with Syria will be at the center of Prime Minister Rabin's upcoming visit to the United States. Minister Ramon said the government hopes that following this visit the U.S. secretary of state will arrive for a shuttle mission in the Middle East with a view to attaining an agreement of principles with Syria.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports Minister Ramon was reacting to comments made by Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom, who complained that Syria was being driven out of the negotiations.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 3 November adds: "Minister Hayim Ramon, answering a motion on the agenda put forward by MK Dov Shilansky today, said the PLO has guaranteed Israel that next year it will submit to the Palestine National Council the amendments to the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist. Ramon added that so far the PLO has adhered to all the arrangements made with it, and that its members do not participate in acts of terrorism."]

Peres Comments on Taba Talks, Municipal Elections

TA0311115293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Labor party lost the municipal elections in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv because of public indifference, not because of any swing to the Likud. Peres was speaking to reporter Jack Katzenell after signing an agreement today with the transport minister of Latvia. Asked about the suspension of the Taba talks by the Palestinians, Peres said Israel will not compromise on the issue of security. Our reporter asked him if there was a crisis at the talks:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Crisis is a part of the negotiations. I do not know any negotiations which do not include partly crises here and crises there.

[Katzenell] Will Israel compromise on the issue of security, on the redeployment of troops? Will it agree to withdraw from the Gaza Strip completely, as the Palestinians demand?

[Peres] I would say that there will not be any compromises on security.

[Katzenell] Syria has offered apparently to have an Israeli Embassy in Damascus if Israel is prepared to undertake to withdraw from ....

[Peres, interrupting] To whom did they offer it?

[Katzenell] Well, at least it was reported in the newspapers.

[Peres] Well, there is a difference between the reports and the facts. We don't have any evidence that this is the case.

[Katzenell] The swing to the Likud in the municipal elections, does this mean the people are not satisfied with the agreement with the PLO?

[Peres] No, what happened is we have lost because of indifference, not because a swing to the Likud. The fact that only 36 percent of the voters came to vote that is our great failure.

[Katzenell] Are you worried about the idea of Ehud Olmert as mayor of Jerusalem?

[Peres] Worry is no longer relevant to the situation. We should judge him upon his behavior and upon his deeds.

[Katzenell] Lastly, sir, Ron Arad, according to the PLO's intelligence chief, is in Syria.

[Peres] I don't know because this morning somebody else from the PLO contradicted this piece of information. I am not going to speculate on such a sensitive issue. [end recording]

Likud Wins Jerusalem, Tel Aviv Municipal Elections

TA0311071493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The latest results in yesterday's municipal elections. The Likud won in Jerusalem, where Ehud Olmert defeated seven-term Mayor Teddy Kollek. The Likud also defeated Labor incumbents in Bat Yam, Elat, Bet Shemesh, Qiryat Mal'akhi, and Giv'at Shmu'el. Labor won in Netanya, Holon, Rosh Ha'ayin, and Ofaqim. In Tel Aviv, Roni Milo defeated Labor's Avigdor Qahalani and in Haifa, Labor's 'Amram Mitzna' won a big victory.

The incumbent mayors won in Hod Hasharon, Ra'ananna, Herzliyya, Kefar Sava, Ramat Gan, Bene Beraq, Ashdod, Ashqelon, Qiryat Gat, Dimona, Arad, Qiryat Bialik, Nahariyya, Nazareth, Upper Nazareth, Migdal Ha'emeq, Bet She'an, Tiberias, Qiryat Shemona, and in Qatzrin. Labor won big in Givat'ayim, and the Likud candidate was victorious in Nes Ziyyona. A second round will be held in a number of locations where no candidate received 40 percent of the vote. This includes Rehovot, Zefat, Yavne'el, Shelomi, Mizpe Ramon, and Rahat.

Jerusalem has a new mayor, Ehud Olmert, who last night received close to 60 percent of the vote in Jerusalem. Olmert defeated 82-year-old Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem for the past 28 years. Kollek received only 35 percent. Olmert's win was greatly helped by a surprise agreement with Agudat Yisra'el, which gave him the Haredi [ultra-Orthodox] vote, along with low voter turnout in Arab East Jerusalem, which had been expected to help Kollek. In an interview with Israel Television, Olmert said the ultra-Orthodox would receive what they are entitled to. On relations with East Jerusalem Arabs, Olmert said he would provide for the needs of the Arab population as well as Teddy Kollek

had done, if not better. Olmert supporters called the victory the beginning of the return to power for Likud. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rabin reacted last night to the defeat of Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek.

[Begin Rabin recording] For me, it is a real setback that Teddy Kollek was not elected to continue to be the mayor of Jerusalem. I believe that he is the greatest builder in Jerusalem in modern times, and no doubt, for Israel and for Jerusalem. I believe Jerusalem lost the greatest builder of the past and could be for the future. I will not ignore the political implications. I said it before, I believed when I said it, and I continue to believe it: We suffered a setback there. I believe the implications can be negative, depends of course, on the behavior of the elected mayor of Jerusalem. If there will be a repetition to what the Likud did in Jerusalem, in sneaking into apartments in the Old City, Silwan—the City of David—it can cause great harm to the delicate fabric of relations between Jews and Palestinians in Jerusalem, and to the whole peace process. [end recording]

Two East Jerusalem Palestinian leaders have reacted cautiously to the election of Ehud Olmert as mayor of Jerusalem. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the original Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, said Olmert is a wise man and it is to be hoped that he will not subject the Arab population to needless provocations. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash said the election was an internal Israeli matter, but he trusted Olmert would not make problems for the Palestinians.

In Tel Aviv, Roni Milo emerged the winner following a night of tense ballot counting. Israel Television's sample survey last night indicated that Milo and Qahalani had each received 45 percent of the votes. When all the votes were counted this morning, Milo received 47 percent support against Qahalani's 42 percent. [passage omitted]

Likud Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA0311133793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government in the wake of the results of the municipal elections. Knesset faction chairman Moshe Qatzav said the results of the elections prove that the people have no confidence in the government. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent Eli Danon.

Sharon Raising U.S. Funds To Buy Old City Homes

TA0311092893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 93 p 9

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Information received at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem indicates that in the past months, Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon has been raising funds in the United States for the purpose of purchasing houses in the Old City of Jerusalem.

According to the information, Sharon has been arriving in the United States every few weeks to raise house purchasing funds from Jews known for their right-wing views. His contact in the United States is Sam Domb. During one of his recent visits, the source said, Sharon tried to organize demonstrations against the agreement Israel had signed with the Palestinians.

Power Supply to Gaza Neighborhoods Cut Off

TA0111202993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Tonight the Israel Electric Corporation again cut off the power supply to several Gaza city neighborhoods. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in view of an approximately 13-million-shekel debt accumulated by the local population, the Electric Corporation has cut off the whole Gaza Strip district from the power supply in recent days. More than 100,000 local residents do not have electricity in their homes at present.

Gaza residents have told our correspondent that the power disconnection is done on a regional basis, and as a result, even those who paid their bills remain without electricity because of the decision to cut off entire districts.

Two 'Wanted' Gaza Men Surrender in Rafah

TA0311110893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Two people on the list of 10 wanted men whom the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] announced it would cease to hunt, turned up at the Civil Administration office in Rafah in the Gaza Strip today. The two are Hisham Jawda, the commander of Fatah Hawks in Rafah, and Ahmad Hasanayn, a member of the cell. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that they were accompanied by Sami Samahdanah, a Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent notes that six wanted men have so far given themselves up to the Civil Administration.

Ministry Rejects Greenpeace Demand on Methyl Bromide

TA2910160893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The Environment Ministry has rejected a Greenpeace delegation demand that Israel immediately stop manufacturing the fumigant methyl bromide. Yisra'el Peleg, director general of the Environment Ministry, told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that Israel is adhering to all the directives of the international pact for the preservation of the ozone layer. It is consequently odd that Greenpeace has demanded of Israel to act in a manner not based on the decisions of the international community. Director General Peleg noted that in a

recent meeting in Geneva all the developing countries demanded not to stop the use of methyl bromide, because it is extremely vital for agriculture.

Barak Missile 'Successfully' Test-Fired

TA0311133093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Another fire trial of the Barak surface-to-surface missile ended successfully today. The Barak was fired from a ship in mid-sea at a Gabriel missile, homed in on it, and destroyed it. To repeat, the fire trial of the Barak concluded successfully.

Computer Firm Invited to Fair in Bahrain

TA3110144093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Oct 93 p 6

[Report by Dudi Goldman]

[Text] Carmel Software Engineering, an Israeli firm marketing antivirus software worldwide, has been invited to attend a computer fair in Bahrain.

To the invitation sent to Barukh Shapira, the firm's director general, was appended a letter from Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister Ahmad al-Shirawi inviting all computer firms in the Middle East to attend the international fair scheduled to open on 30 May 1994.

Al-Shirawi further points out that the Middle East is on the verge of a new era of fast development and growth and turning to rapid data and communication technologies. According to him, its proximity to Saudi Arabia—which buys $500 million worth of software and hardware every year—makes Bahrain the ideal place to hold the fair.

Turkish Delegation Arrives To Promote Economic Ties

TA0311095993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 93 p 15

[Report by Hadas Geifman]

[Excerpt] "On 17 November, Egypt, Turkey, and Israel will sign a cooperation agreement in London. The agreement will deal with the establishment of an organization promoting tourism in the Middle East." This statement was made yesterday by Turkish Tourism Minister Abdulkadir Ates at a news conference held at the launching of the "Turkey" exhibition at Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. He added that the agreement will promote economic cooperation and the exchange of technology. The Turkish minister further said that about 49,000 Israeli tourists visited his country last year and 80,000 in 1993.

Onur Gokce, Turkey's ambassador in Israel, announced that "Israel had been chosen as the first target of the Turkish Government's export promotion campaign."

Welcoming addresses were made by Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit, Knesset Member Ori Or, Israel Exports Institute Chairman 'Uzi Netan'el, and others.

The exhibition represents Turkish export industries in the following fields: vehicles and construction steel, food, textiles, fashion, electronics, chemicals, petrochemicals, tobacco, and tourism. Numerous financiers, bank and factory directors, ministers, and deputy ministers attend the exposition in a bid to explore possible investment projects and business ties between Israeli and Turkish entrepreneurs. [passage omitted]

[An unattributed report on page 3 of Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 3 November adds that the visiting Turkish delegation consists of "19 senior administration officials, 14 reporters, and the representatives of 38 business firms."

[The report adds: "In 1992, Israeli exports to Turkey stood at $114 million. From January through September 1993, total Israeli exports to Turkey reached $81 million.

["Israeli imports from Turkey stood at $80 million in 1992 and at $59 million from January through September 1993."]

Exports to East Bloc Double, Reach $400 Million

TA0311131893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] In the first nine months of 1993, exports to the former East bloc, including the PRC, reached $400 million, which is double the figure for the same period last year. The Central Bureau of Statistics reported that there has been an especially high rise, 135 percent, in exports to the CIS, in particular Russia and Kazakhstan. A quarter of the exports to the former East bloc are consumer goods.

'Militant' Attacker Linked to Brooklyn Mosque

JN0211184293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Nov 93 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The militant who led an armed attack on a Jordanian border post on Friday used to work in the same New York mosque as the alleged mastermind behind the World Trade Centre bombing, his widow said Monday.

Iman Hajjat said her husband Hasan Husayn Hajjat, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin, worked at Brooklyn's al-Faruq Mosque while he was in the United States, from 1991 until his return to Jordan a few months ago.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the spiritual leader of Muslim militants in Egypt who is currently under arrest in the United States on conspiracy charges, preached at al-Faruq.

Mr. Hajjat and two other men, who his widow said were Yemenis, attacked a post on the border with Israel on Friday, killing a soldier. The assailants were killed when soldiers fired back.

She told the AFP her husband was an Islamic militant, but gave no motive for the attack.

A Jordanian official confirmed that Mr. Hajjat led the attack, but would not reveal the names of the two others.

Another official told the AFP Saturday that the attack could have been in protest at Jordan's signing on Sept. 14 in Washington of an agenda for further peace negotiations with Israel.

The Jordan News Agency, PETRA, quoted Mrs. Hajjat as condemning the attack that her husband perpetrated as a heinous crime.

"Is this jihad (holy war) he was talking about...does jihad means Muslims killing to his brother Muslim?" she asked.

Mrs. Hajjat expressed dissatisfaction over her husband's crime, which she attributed to "the religious extremism that has blinded him."

In an interview with PETRA, Mrs. Hajjat recollected the recent events that had probably led to her husband's role in the attack.

She said that her husband, 29, had left for the United States in 1991 "in a suspicious manner," and was working as an assistant to an imam of the al-Faruq mosque.

Mrs. Hajjat, who said she got married to him in August 1993 after being engaged for four years, said that "signs of extremism" appeared in her husband's letters the following year to his stay in the U.S.

"He came back last summer with $4,000 in his pocket...I began to have doubts because he was constantly talking about jihad," she said. "If I knew about my husband's intentions, I would have reported it to the concerned authorities immediately."

Mrs. Hajjat said that her husband used to constantly listen to tapes of 'Abdallah 'Azzam, a Muslim Brotherhood's leader who was killed in Afghanistan in 1989. She also said that he used to receive phone calls at 2 a.m., most of which she believes, were from America.

"I was not able to understand what he was saying because of the utmost secrecy he adopted," she said.

Mrs. Wardah Nimr Rahhal wife of Husayn Muhammad 'Ali, a Jordanian soldier killed in Friday's attack, showed pride of the "heroic act" of her husband to defend "dear Jordan," PETRA said.

She said that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the bereaved family had "alleviated our pains and had left the best of impressions in us."

Editorial: Rabin Must End Settler Violence

JN0211163693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Nov 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "A Savage Settlers' Onslaught"]

[Text] The past few days have witnessed unprecedented hostile and savage acts by Zionist settlers in the Gaza Strip and West Bank against Arab citizens. Such acts include random shootings, the destruction of houses, setting cars on fire, and the closing of main roads. It resulted in the martyring and wounding of many unarmed Palestinian citizens and caused serious damage to their property.

What is noteworthy is that these malicious, racist acts coincide with the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Taba on implementing the self-rule agreement signed by the PLO and Rabin's government on 13 September. This raises questions about Israel's real intentions, especially since the enemy Army does not seem to heed the savage crimes committed by the settlers. This indicates that the Israeli authorities are collaborating with these acts that are imbued with malice and hatred against the Arabs and are hostile to the peace efforts and political developments of the past few months.

The declared reasons leaking from the settlers' circles say that the savage acts they are committing against Arab citizens—the real owners of the land—are a reaction to the proposed plan for the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the declaration of principles. Moreover, these settlers fear the deployment of the Palestinian police in order to guarantee security inside the self-rule areas after the withdrawal of the enemy forces.

These terrorist acts are serious preludes to what could happen after the implementation of the self-rule agreement. This is especially true since the Tel Aviv government insists on keeping the settlements and settlers

inside the areas from which the enemy's Army is supposed to withdraw, and which will be subject to full Palestinian authority.

The PLO has offered all it can in order to facilitate the implementation of the agreement signed by the two sides while Israel continues to place obstacles during the current negotiations on details between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Taba. The most recent obstacle is the withdrawal plan presented by Israel yesterday that confirms Tel Aviv's determination to keep its military forces in the vital areas of self-rule. This means a military, political, and economic hegemony over Palestinian authority.

Rabin's government must put a decisive end to the provocative acts by Zionist settlers. The continuation of these acts may jeopardize the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the failure of which could launch a wave of violence the extent of which no one knows.

SLA Official Reportedly Executed by Resistance

NC0311075093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The Martyr 'Abdallah Sh'aytu Group of the Islamic Resistance carried out the death sentence against Muhammad Faris Ayyub, alias Abu-Ayyub, a security official in Agent Lahd's army [South Lebanese Army, SLA] in Hula as he returned to his home at 0010 today. The mujahidin opened fire from close range, killing him instantly.

Elsewhere, the Zionist occupation troops renewed their violent bombardment, using 155-mm shells, of the Nahr al-Litani river basin and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr after 0730. The Islamic Resistance retaliated by directing concentrated fire at the al-Shumariyah post. The position was seen ablaze. The bombardment was continuing when this cast was being prepared.

Execution Report Denied

NC0311084593 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] A civilian was injured during a terrorist operation in the village of Hula last night. The death sentence was not carried out against security official Muhammad Ayyub Faris, as the Voice of Islam [Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed] radio alleged this morning.

Speaker Birri: Israel Annexing Lebanese Territory

NC0211135293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpt] After meeting President al-Hirawi today, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri said he briefed the president on what the southerners and the south have been subjected to for some time, particularly in this waiting period, which we fear. He added: I believe the media have some important information about the annexation of part of Lebanese territory: a strip of land 5 km long and 200 meters wide in the area of Rumaysh. Israel brought large- caliber guns into the central sector and al-Nabatiyah region. This means there are destructive Israeli intentions. And Israel is besieging the port of Tyre and destroying fishermen's boats, he added. [passage omitted]

'Official Silence' on 'Zionist Annexation' Scored

NC0311075993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the recent Zionist annexation of Lebanese land, criticizing official silence over the practice.

The statement said that the political authority has again failed to demonstrate its competence and sense of responsibility toward fateful issues.

Hizballah criticized remarks made by Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri in Paris that water resources will be discussed during negotiations and that each side will obtain its water needs. The statement said this means that the Lebanese authority does not object to sharing Lebanon's water with the Zionists.

The statement said the planned administrative reform must involve the head of the authority, because the big officials are the ones who are corrupt; they squander the country's resources, the blood of its sons, its land, and water.

Gen 'Awn Criticizes 'Political Arrests'

PM0211123693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon: Arrests Continue; Syrians Increase Their Roadblocks"]

[Excerpt] London, Beirut, AL-HAYAH—General Michel 'Awn has said that "the arrest campaign launched in Lebanon two days ago is continuing and hundreds have been arrested."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that the arrests are affecting not only his supporters but "Lebanese Forces" elements as well.

He held officials "responsible for any harm to which the detainees may be exposed. The occupation does not scare us and terrorism does not weaken our determination. Whatever the number of arrests, we are determined to continue to demand our right to freedom and sovereignty."

He added: "They are actions which violate the law and unjustifiable political arrests. We are not against security detention if there are riots. But we are not threatening security, nor did we call for a revolution. We called for peaceful resistance."

He wondered: "Are they using the arrests to conceal a major action they intend to take? Or is it a prelude to a political announcement of a confederation?"

Other sources have said that roadblocks set up in the areas of B'abda, Jisr al-Basha, and 'Ayn Sa'adah have arrested scores of young men, according to name lists. [passage omitted]

Operations of Resistance, Occupation Detailed

Events in South 'Escalating'

NC0211134793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Events in the south have been escalating noticeably in the past few hours. The resistance carried out operations and fire was exchanged. At 1030 today, resistance men shelled the Sujud post with artillery and cannon fire. At around 1230, three shells fell on Wadi al-Saluqi. This morning, an Israeli patrol found an

explosive device laid by the resistance fighters on the way to Marj 'Uyun inside the occupied border strip. The Israeli response was to shell Mlita, 'Arab Salim, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi.

Israeli warplanes overflew the south at 1100 this morning, breaking the sound barrier. The resistance earlier announced that a group of its fighters last night stopped an Israeli infiltration attempt in the direction of Qabrikha. It said it clashed with the infiltrators using all kinds of machine guns and mortar shells. It said some injuries were inflicted on the infiltrators. The operation was accompanied by Israeli shelling of Majdal Silm and (al-Samriyah). Israeli airplanes overflew Shihin. Flares were thrown over Bra'shit. At dawn, the Israelis shelled the hills of Haris, al-Huqban, and the surrounding areas.

Israelis Fire Missiles, Stage Raids

NC0311121993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] An Israeli helicopter raided Zawtar al-Sharqiyah this morning while Israeli warplanes staged a series of mock raids over al-Nabatiyah areas. The details are:

At 0700 today, an Israeli helicopter fired two missiles on Zawtar al-Sharqiyah while overflying the al-Litani River basin. The first missile hit the house of citizen Muhammad 'Ali Harb, destroying three walls. His family of eight miraculously escaped. The second missile fell in an olive grove and caused no damage.

The Israeli forces this morning shelled the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and the al-Litani River basin from their positions in al-Zaffatah. The shelling lasted until 0800.

Israeli warplanes staged a series of mock raids this morning over the hills of al-Nabatiyah, the al-Litani River basin, and the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, dropping dozens of thermal balloons to escape antiaircraft fire.

In the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, Jabal al-Rayhan came under intermittent artillery shelling this morning from the Israeli positions in Tallat al-Suwayda'. This was accompanied by the raking of the outskirts of the southern quarter of 'Arab Salim with heavy machine guns.

Explosion Near TV Station Reported 2 Nov

NC0311074493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] AL-DIYAR reports that an explosion occurred near the Lebanese television station in al-Hazimiyah at 1800 yesterday causing no casualties.

Missing Israeli Navigator Said To Be Alive

NC0311083693 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Fatah security official Nizar 'Ammar has stated that Israeli navigator Ron Arad, who went missing seven years ago, is alive and being held in Syria. He also said that the bodies of three Israeli soldiers lost in the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle in 1982 are also in Syria.

Military Exercises Called 'Message to Israel'

PM0211151993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Oct 93 p3

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Damascus: Syrian Military Exercises Timely Message to Israel"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—In less than one week various units of the Syrian Armed Forces carried out live-ammunition exercises, seen as an important indication of stands which could be taken at the appropriate time in defense of the territory and the homeland. After the naval exercise four days ago, combat units from all branches of the Armed Forces carried out a tactical exercise with live ammunition, demonstrating full cooperation and meticulous coordination among all participating forces and fulfilling the objectives of the exercise. [passage omitted]

Syria says that statements made by Israeli officials clearly indicate intentions contrary to the course of peace and the international desire to promote a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

A Syrian responsible source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, unlike Israel, Syria believes that peace is indivisible and that, contrary to what the Israeli leaders believe, peace is the alternative to war and destruction; but the indications are that Israel is doubling its armament and intensifying its preparations for aggression. Rabin did not conceal this when he said that the military establishment's share of the Israeli budget would not be touched and that allocations for arms purchases and manufacture would not be affected. Through its daily aggressions against southern Lebanon, Israel is providing the evidence that it continues to pursue the same policy of military aggression. The Syrian source said that, as far as Syria is concerned, comprehensive peace means the restoration of all Arab rights, nothing else.

Syrian sources in Damascus have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Arab and foreign states, including the United States, Russia, and Europe, agree with Syria and believe that there can be no peace in the Middle East without complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. They emphasize that the pretext which Israel used to make to justify nonwithdrawal from the Golan are no longer valid because, with the development of missile and other weapons systems, it is no longer that dangerous. The world, the sources said, calls on Israel to withdraw from the Golan if it wants peace, and the withdrawal cannot be linked to military calculations because peace would cancel out the military logic. A continued Israeli presence on the Golan would expose the region to new wars and would not bring the peace sought by all parties. The informed sources further said that Israel's declared stockpiling and development of arms, far from serving its interests and promoting peace, would only complicate the situation in the region. The sources expect some developments related to peace in the coming few months because peace, in its comprehensive sense, concerns the negotiating states as well as the entire world.

Mubarak Conveys U.S. Views on Peace to al-Asad

PM0211164493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 93 p 3

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "U.S. Understanding of Syria's Demands With Regard to Golan Issue; Mubarak Conveys to al-Asad Washington's Wish That Supporters of Peace Agreement Not Be Attacked"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, Amman, Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, AFP—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has conveyed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton about Washington's commitment to the foundations of the peace process and to continuing its efforts to push it forward, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, and its wish that the parties involved in the peace process not be attacked. President Mubarak stopped over in Latakia on his way back from his visits to the United States and France.

Meanwhile, leaders of Palestinian and Lebanese factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement agreed yesterday to step up attempts to thwart this agreement by increasing military operations against Israel.

A spokesman for the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah reached an agreement during talks which they concluded in the Syrian capital yesterday.

Syrian sources have disclosed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President Mubarak conveyed to President al-Asad, during their meeting in Latakia the day before yesterday evening, "reassuring information and assurances which he brought with him from Washington and Paris about the two states' commitment to the peace process and to continuing their efforts to push it forward, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track." President Mubarak also conveyed to al-Asad the understanding of Syria's demands and position on the part of both U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Francois Mitterrand. And that the efforts they are going to make in the coming days and weeks will focus on finding formulas to achieve progress in the peace process, taking account of the Syrian position.

President Mubarak emphasized the U.S. wish that the other parties involved in the peace process not be attacked. This is why President al-Asad was noticeably reserved when he was asked about Jordan's position. He said that he is committed to the peace process. He also said that our relations with Jordan are cordial, emphasizing Syria's position on the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He said that he had informed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of this position in Damascus, namely that Syria does not support the agreement, but will not oppose it.

Sources said that the two presidents also discussed the U.S. Administration's concern over the position of the organizations rejecting the agreement in Damascus and their key leaders. President al-Asad said that Syria is a democratic country, and they [the Americans] are singing the praises of democracy, so these groups cannot be silenced, because they have the right to repatriation and to self-determination. The Gaza-Jericho agreement has transcended them. And the Palestinian people's full rights must be achieved.

The sources said that Mubarak's brief visit to Syria has brought about some optimism. Reporters here [in Syria] believe that the U.S. Administration is going to play a serious role and that it is going to move from the role of honest broker to the role of a full partner in the negotiation process, as it is going to use all its weight and influence when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visits Washington. Those close to the U.S. President quote him as saying that he has a strong and certain desire "to achieve progress" on the Arab tracks with Israel and not to be content with the Gaza-Jericho agreement only. The most important point the Americans wanted to convey to President al-Asad is that the U.S. Administration, President Clinton in particular, does not wish to make any change in the negotiations formula or to change their mechanism, insisting on continuing to hold the negotiations in Washington and not following the path of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. [passage omitted]

Austrian Chancellor Arrives on State Visit

JN0211193293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 2 Nov (SANA)—Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky arrived in Damascus on a state visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at 1845 today.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led the welcoming party at Damascus International Airport. Also on hand were Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; ministers; and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus.

In an arrival statement to SANA, Dr. Vranitzky said he was glad to be visiting Syria, calling it a key regional player. He noted that all his predecessors had contributed to developing good friendly relations between Syria and Austria.

Dr. Vranitzky noted that this state visit is the first by an Austrian chancellor to Damascus. He said he looked forward to meeting with President al-Asad and other Syrian officials to talk about bilateral ties and topical world issues.

Dr. Vranitzky indicated that the Middle East holds center stage in Austria's foreign policy.

He is accompanied by an official Austrian delegation.

Mr. al-Zu'bi and Dr. Vranitzky drove in an official motorcade from Damascus Airport to Tishrin Palace, where the Austrian guest will be staying.

Peace 'Captive' to Israeli Intransigence

Futility of 'Separate Deals' Viewed

JN3110114993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Constants of a Just Solution," TISHRIN newspaper highlights His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's reiteration that just and honorable peace is based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the formula of peace in exchange for land, all the land.

TISHRIN says: This reiteration by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad once again embodies the constants governing the Syrian position toward the peace process. These constants stem from eagerness to restore all Arab territories and rights and establish security and stability in the region on the basis of international legitimacy resolutions. Such an eventuality is bound to spare the region further dangers.

The paper adds: The comprehensiveness and justness of the solution is extremely important for Syria. This issue cannot be sidestepped or circumvented. This Syrian position means that, one way or another, Israel, which has expansionist designs against Arab territory, must be made to comply with the wishes of the international community.

The paper goes on to say: Syria, which wants to restore all occupied territories, is for full peace—peace that would ensure its own rights, as well as Arab rights, one that would pave the way for comprehensive regional security and stability, and that would spare the region the specters of war. Undoubtedly, Israel is aware of the facts regarding this Syrian position. However, it is deliberately misinterpreting and distorting this position so that it may continue with its ambitious plans to perpetuate the occupation of Arab territories and dominate the region regardless of the requirements of the desired peaceful settlement.

TISHRIN adds: This Syrian position is appreciated by the Arabs and the world at large. Various capitals, headed by Washington, have declared that they understand the facts pertaining to this Syrian position, as well as its vital importance of a comprehensive and just solution.

AL-BA'TH newspaper comments on the same issue, saying: Regional peace cannot be established without Syria. Besides, the policy of concluding separate deals and the partial solutions they produce cannot bring the region any semblance of stability. The Zionist plan, which is grounded in expansionism and a desire to dominate the entire region, cannot ebb or slacken unless just and comprehensive peace is achieved. The reference here is to a peaceful settlement that would be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, which have become the firm foundations of the Madrid formula.

The paper adds: Syria, which accepted the peace initiative, has proved over the past two years of talks that it is seeking just and comprehensive peace, that it has remained and will remain the protective shield safeguarding Arab rights, and that it is waging the peace battle firmly and courageously, without relinquishing any single right.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, whose pan-Arab policy is rooted in unwavering constants and principles, is seeking peace, rather than begging for it. It will continue to seek peace as long as the opportunity is still available. Leader al-Asad affirmed to reporters yesterday that the peace process is continuing. The efforts to advance it are still under way. For, as leader al-Asad said, if this process is halted, it will halt completely. This means that the opportunity is still available and that others have only to take advantage of it.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper also comments on the Middle East peace process after two years have passed since the convocation of the Madrid Middle East peace conference. The paper wonders: What has been achieved? What is the outcome of the peace process?

AL-THAWRAH points out that after 11 rounds of bilateral talks in Washington, and despite all efforts to ensure the continuation of the peace process to prevent it from stalemating or collapsing, nobody can thus far sense any positive progress that could revitalize the peace process and restore its credibility. Nobody can note any change in the Israeli stand that could lead one to conclude that Israeli leaders have done away with the methods of maneuvering and deception, the paper maintains.

The paper adds: Israel is working vigorously and determinedly to torpedo the principles upon which the Madrid conference was based by laying emphasis on partial and phased solutions, which are diametrically opposed to just and comprehensive peace.

The paper believes that Israel's aim has remained to deal with the Arab sides one at a time so that it may reach separate deals with them—deals that would allow it to have both land and peace.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The Arabs are seeking peace. They are working hard and seriously to achieve peace. As far as Syria is concerned, it has done its utmost to allow peace efforts to make positive progress; whereas Israel has continued to procrastinate and prevaricate without taking any positive stand that could boost hopes for a just and comprehensive solution.

Settlement Policy 'Obstacle' to Peace

JN0211085093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "The Settlement and the Settlers, a War on the Peace Process," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Taking into account that the Zionist settlers are merely an extension of the occupation army—according to the social structure in Israel—the war these settlers have recently escalated against our unarmed kinsfolk in the occupied territories was no coincidence, and did not stem from any ready pretexts that can be used at any time. This war is in line with the Rabin government's position which rejects peace.

AL-BA'TH affirms that the settlement policy is still a major obstacle to peace and to the negotiations on which the peace process was based in the first place. The paper points out that the Israeli position, which was obvious throughout the past two years of negotiations, is still based on placing successive obstacles. These obstacles include adhering to occupation, proposing partial solutions and separate deals, and continuing the building of settlements which will further aggravate the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: By creating a state of tension, Israel seeks to avoid the requisites of peace and circumvent the diplomatic efforts designed to promote bilateral negotiations. In brief, this is one of the exposed games; namely, continuing to deal blows to the peace process.

Israeli Stands Show No Desire for Peace

JN0211101193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "Digestion—the Israeli Way," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Yitzhaq Rabin has frequently asserted that his government cannot activate all tracks of the peace process simultaneously, and that some tracks must be frozen so Israel can have an opportunity to digest the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

TISHRIN adds: Israel is now in dire need of both calm and departure from the inconvenience of other tracks so that it can hold onto the occupied territories, avoid peace, and deny the Arabs their rights all at once without any irritation or harmful repercussions. The Israelis believed they could not digest all these factors together, so they decided to kill two birds with one stone and take a stronger hold of the occupied Arab territories and increase their intransigence and rejection of the principles of a comprehensive settlement.

The paper points out that this position accurately expresses Israel's real desire; namely, it does not want to achieve peace, because peace would commit it to abandoning the gains it obtained in past wars. Israel does not seek a comprehensive settlement because it would limit its future ambitions, make the Arabs stronger and more capable of standing fast against Zionist pressures, and prevent the Arabs from selling out their rights.

TISHRIN affirms that what Israel reiterates and what its trumpets say will not change the situation. This is because the Gaza-Jericho agreement will not solve the problem, will not have an effective impact on the course of events, and will not obliterate the realities of the conflict.

TISHRIN stresses that it is clear to everyone that security and stability will not be achieved in the region as long as there is Zionist occupation, expansion, repression, and terrorism. Israel can say what it likes. However, what Israel says will not change the eternal fact that the Arabs will not relinquish their rights, that peace cannot be achieved in the region without Syria, and that a peaceful settlement will not survive if it is not comprehensive and just and if it does not terminate all forms of injustice, expansion, occupation, and aggression.

Concluding its article, TISHRIN says: In the past it was said that lies and deception cannot last long. Thus, this big Israeli hoax will not survive regardless of the circumstances and the forces supporting it.

Israel Trying to 'Evade' Peace

JN0311103993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Referring to the ongoing Israeli settlers' attacks in the occupied territory, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH notes that such attacks have recently become daily and systematic acts of terrorism against Arab citizens and their property. The paper also notes that southern Lebanon is being subjected to Israeli attacks and acts of piracy around the clock. The paper says: This makes observers wonder what kind of peace the Rabin government is talking about and claiming to have been achieved after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that if arbitrary murder and aggression are the early signs of the translation of the agreement with the PLO and of Israel's concept of peace, then the results and repercussions of the implementation of the agreement in the near- and long-terms will be a disaster for the Palestinian people and the Arabs in general. This is because the Israeli mentality is based on usurping rather than acknowledging others' rights.

AL-THAWRAH explains that the Tel Aviv rulers who pretend to be busy with the Taba negotiations, which yesterday ended in a void, want to freeze the peace talks where they are now so as to tell the international public opinion in general and the Arab public opinion in particular that the Oslo agreement, which is void of any future obligations, is the limit of what Israel can offer the Palestinian people. Consequently, it is a model for what Israel can offer other Arabs on other tracks of negotiations.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Two years after the beginning of the peace process, peace is still captive to Israel's intransigent policies, maneuvering, and procrastination. This makes it difficult to make any headway toward a just peace without having Israel to comply with the terms of reference and bases of the peace process, which is based on the principle of full Israeli withdrawal and the return of all rights and territories. Anything other than that, besides separate deals, will not achieve regional peace and stability.

TISHRIN deals with the Palestinian-Israeli Taba talks which have been suspended because of differences over the Israeli side's refusal to withdraw from Gaza. During these talks, Israel offered nothing but a plan for the redeployment of its troops in the Gaza Strip. In accordance with this plan, the Israeli troops would remain stationed in positions and points which they deem important and strategic for the security of settlements and settlers.

TISHRIN says: Those who trust Israel's peaceful intentions have been shocked. They have discovered with irrefutable evidence that they have been deluded. For, Israel is still far away from peace. It wants to keep the occupied Arab territories, force others to accept its terms, and ensure its security and that of the settlers at the expense of peace and its requirements and at the expense of Arab rights.

TISHRIN believes that Israel's redeployment in the Gaza Strip and refusal to withdraw from it reaffirm that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a gain for Israel and does not meet the national Palestinian aspirations and rights. Rather, it only adds a new obstacle to the peace process and further complicates the situation in the region.

TISHRIN explains that Israel's refusal to withdraw from Gaza after five meetings in Taba shows that the Israeli government is still wagering on taking everything and giving nothing. It is also wagering on plans it is presenting to the Palestinian side after it has split the peace process by having a separate deal with this side through

secret talks which constituted an alternative to the Washington talks and a circumvention of the Madrid conference formula as a framework for arriving at a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN affirms that Israel insists on maintaining its occupation of the Arab territories and declares through practical moves that the agreement with the Palestinians permits it to maintain its occupation and to refuse to withdraw because of its responsibility for the security and protection of settlements and settlers. Besides, it is translating its ideas into action. In this context, it will set up an electronic security fence which will isolate Gaza from its surrounding area, the territories occupied in 1948, and from Egypt.

TISHRIN concludes: In the first real experience of dealing with the question of withdrawal from Gaza, Israel is again trying to evade the requirements of peace. This is although it admits that it is facing hell in Gaza as a result of the confrontations and painful blows that are deal to it there. After dragging the Palestinians into the Gaza-Jericho agreement, it has revealed that it wants nothing except to plant illusions in people's minds and propagate its false allegations about its peaceful intentions.

AL-BA'TH deals with the contradictory reports on the diplomatic moves regarding the resumption of the peace process. It says that while it has been reported that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will embark on a Middle East tour during the second half of this month to boost the peace process, other reports say that the U.S. secretary may postpone his tour until the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. Administration has officially affirmed that a just, comprehensive peace cannot be achieved in the region unless all tracks are included, particularly the Syrian track. Washington may have developed the conviction that Christopher's regional tour may fail to achieve the headway it is meant to achieve. This is because Israel's stand is still the obstacle to any progress toward a comprehensive settlement on all tracks.

AL-BA'TH indicates that if Israel maintains the same policy of procrastination toward the requirements of peace, its ultimate objective must be to undermine the peace process, especially since Tel Aviv believes that the Gaza-Jericho agreement may achieve peace, oblivious of the fact that any partial and separate agreement with any party cannot achieve peace, security, and stability in the region as long as the Arab territory is still under the Israeli occupation.

AL-BA'TH affirms that Israel believes that by signing the Gaza- Jericho agreement, peace has already been achieved. Thus, it is urging the Arabs to expedite the normalization of their relations with it and to open their borders and markets for it.

AL-BA'TH says that those who are in a hurry to normalize relations with Israel should be cautious and take a close look first at Israel's repressive and destructive campaign after the Gaza-Jericho agreement. This campaign, the paper notes, is being carried out by armed settlers, who are part of Israel's military force.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The drive to establish relations of any kind with Israel before the Arabs fully restore their rights cannot serve the pan-Arab or national interest of any Arab country. The current situation requires a serious Arab move to halt the state of collapse that the Arab nation has suffered because of some approaches toward Israel and which have offered Israel a service which it was unable to achieve through its aggressive wars.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Forces Attack Kabul's Tagab District

LD0211180793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Hezb-e Eslami forces in Tagab district [words indistinct] war among Kabul citizens. At the time of the attacks by Hezb-e Eslami forces on the Islamic army in Tagab, electricity supplies to Kabul city were cut.

A BIA correspondent reports that the attack by Hezb-e Eslami forces on Tagab has once again provoked their deep hatred and indignation by the citizens of Kabul. The people continue to ask why the prime minister engages in killing, cutting electricity supplies and closing roads. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Offensive Ends in 'Failure'

LD0211181793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Commentary by Bakhtar Information Agency political commentator—read by announcer]

[Text] After the forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] attacked areas of Sarobi, thereby causing the death of hundreds of our innocent compatriots, now they have begun another attack. Although the Hezb-e Eslami attack caused the anger and dissatisfaction of all jihadi organizations who had bases in Sarobi, [Hezb-e Eslami leader and Prime Minister designate Golboddin] Hekmatyar ignored the dissatisfaction of jihadi organizations and the people, and once again embarked on the implementation of his adventurist military plans by initiating an attack on Tagab. International news sources have reported that after the attack on Sarobi, Hezb-e Eslami forces made necessary preparations for starting a clash in Tagab. The transfer of Sama Division to Sarobi and the dispatch of Zardad's forces to Tagab were among those preparations. Therefore Hekamatyar's Hezb-e Eslami started fighting in Tagab as a result of these advance preparations [words indistinct]

Hezb-e Eslami has started this fighting to promote its aims [words indistinct] did not show interest in the cessation of the fighting and understanding and continued its lunatic attacks. Authentic sources have said that after the attacks of Hezb-e Eslami's stormtroopers met with a crushing response, Golboddin Helmatyar instructed his forces' conmander to retreat. It is said that in a wireless message Golboddin Hekmatyar has said that the attack did not achieve its final goals so a retreat should be made. A representative of the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan said in a news conference that the attack of Hekmatyar on Tagab was made without any thought about its consequences. The outcome of the fighting showed that the fate of Hezb-e Eslami's expedition this time too ended in disappointment and retreat. Political observers believe that Hekmatyar's expedition to Tagab was a careless military act ending in failure in which he has gambled on his position as the prime minister and his political future in the country's future [words indistinct].

India

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Remark on Kashmir

BK0211123693 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Commentary by K.G. Joglekar]

[Text] It is indeed sad that at a time when India and the United States are trying to improve their relations, responsible American officials in Washington have made statements on Kashmir which ignore the facts of the case, the realities on the ground, and affect the terrorial integrity of India. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, had the support of all Indian political parties when he said that the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to India was a fact of history which could not be questioned and there was no reason therefore to accept the American contention that it did not accept the instrument of accession signed by the ruler in 1947 and considered Kashmir a disputed territory. It seems the American officials did not pay sufficient attention to what their own representatives have said in the past. Speaking in the Security Council on 4 February 1948, a few months after the accession of the state to India, the American representative said, quote, the external sovereignty of Kashmir is no longer under the control of the maharajah. With the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India, the foreign sovereignty went over to India and is exercised by India. And that is how India happens to be here as the petitioner, unquote.

The instrument of accesssion signed by the ruler was the same as those signed by hundreds of rulers of princely states. Does the United States seriously think that the accession of all the states can also be questioned now? That would be astounding indeed. It was for the rulers of the state to decide to which country—India or Pakistan—they should accede. The decision was final and could not be questioned or changed. The accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India like the accession of all these former princely states is final and irrevocable. Any attempt by any country, however powerful, to question the accession would not be tolerated as it would affect the territorial integrity of India. In questioning the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India, the United States officials are trying to reverse the stand that their own country had taken in 1948. What is worse, they are guilty of ignoring the facts of the case.

Soon after India became free, her leaders made it clear to the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir that he should quickly take a decision on acceding to India or Pakistan. India was prepared to wait, but Pakistan was not. In its desire to grab the state quickly, it sent personnel of its armed forces under the guise of raiders. It first refused to accept that it had a hand in the invasion of the state and the

atrocities that they committed. Faced with irrefutable evidence, Pakistan later accepted that it was involved in the invasion. India accepted the offer of the ruler to accede to India only after ascertaining that the people of the state represented by the most popular party supported the decision of the ruler. It, however, offered on its own to ascertain the wishes of the people of the state after Kashmir had withdrawn its forces [as heard].

The United Nations Security Council agreed. But, it is Pakistan which has never withdrawn its forces and therefore disregarded the resolution of the world body. Faced with an impasse, India, which went to the Security Council complaining of aggression, tried to ascertain the wishes of the people of the area under control. The constitutent assembly of the state adopted a constitution which clearly says that the state is and shall remain an integral part of India. This resolve has been reinforced by successive elections held in the state for the Indian Parliament and the state assembly.

The recent statements by American officials terming Kashmir, what they called, a disputed territory not only throw a spanner in the improvement of relations between India and the United States, but also the process of normalization of relations between India and Pakistan. It is only by quiet diplmacy that any third country can help the two countries to hold talks as envisaged under the Simla agreement and resolve all outstanding problems. Thoughtless utterrances by people in responsible position may jeopardize peace in the subcontinent. It is significant that whatever the differences, all political parties in India have protested angrily against the recent American statements and have declared that they would tolerate no threat to the integrity of the country.

Further on Developments at Hazratbal Shrine

Court Orders Food Supply

BK0211162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] The Supreme Court has ordered the supply of food and water to the inmates of the Hazratbal Shrine but said this should be made at the iron bar fencing of the shrine or at a place convenient to the authorities. Modifying the Jammu and Kashmir High Court order, a division bench directed that food should not be permitted to be taken inside. It should be consumed where it is provided. Noting that both the state government and the Srinagar Bar Association are concerned that the innocent hostages of the militants should not suffer, the judges said food may be provided to a small group of five to 10 or more at a time. The authorities can determine the quantity, but it should not be less than 1,200 calories. The Divisional Commissioner of Srinagar has been asked to supervize the supplies. About electricity, the judges noted that the authorities are anxious to avoid any misuse. Therefore, the court ordered that floodlight may be provided outside or candlelight supplied, as there are 21 sick persons in the Shrine. The court upheld the arrangements for the visit of Srinagar chief medical officer to the shrine. The judges also ordered provision of sufficient quantity of water to keep the toilets clean. The judges observed that the order has been passed primarily keeping in view the interests of innocent people held hostage in the shrine by the militants.

'Militants' Agree To 'Deal'

BK0311031593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0311 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Nov 3 (AFP)—Muslim militants holed up inside Kashmir's Hazratbal mosque agreed Wednesday to a deal with government negotiators aimed at ending the 19-day-old siege of the complex, officials said.

Senior Kashmir official Mehmoodur Rehman said the more than 50 militants had agreed to leave the shrine along with 60 to 70 civilians who have been holed up in the mosque surrounded by troops since the night of October 15.

Rehman said the agreement was reached Tuesday night during talks between government negotiator Wajahat Habibullah and rebels inside Hazratbal.

He said the militants would be separated from the civilians after identification when they emerge from inside the shrine. The rebels who do not already face charges of serious crimes were expected to win bail, he said.

A senior official of India's Border Security Force (BSF) said the crisis was nearing a solution, adding that BSF teams had reached the mosque to organise procedures to identify and segregate the militants and the civilians.

A curfew was imposed meanwhile in much of this city of 700,000 people, Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub of Muslim militancy, to prevent residents converging on the shrine when news spreads of the deal.

Situation Termed 'Peaceful'

BK0311044893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government will take all the steps to implement the Supreme Court order for the supply of food to the inmates of the Hazratbal shrine. This was stated by the additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmoodur Rahman, in Srinagar this morning. The chief government negotiator, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, had another round of talks last evening with the militants holed up in the Hazratbal shrine.

The situation in and around the shrine is peaceful and no untoward incident has been reported.

The former union minister, Dr. Karan Singh, called on the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, in Srinagar yesterday to discuss the present situation in the state.

Efforts To End Crisis 'Intensified'

BK0311064593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Precautionary curfew has been imposed in seven police station areas of Srinagar city since this morning. The areas are: Safa Kadal, Maharajganj, Khanyar, Mohatta, Sora, Rainavadi and Parimpura. The Nagin police station area in which the Hazratbal shrine is situation was already under curfew.

Our Srinagar correspondent reports that the civil authorities have intensified efforts to persuade the militants holed up inside the shrine to give up their arms and come out. The state government has promised them fair, just, and humane treatment. Negotiations between the militants and the civil authorities continued till late last night. The authorities have expressed the hope of an early solution to the 19-day tangle. Authorities have already initiated action to implement the Supreme Court order yesterday pertaining to the supply of food and giving other amenities to those inside the shrine. Situation throughout the valley is reported to be peaceful.

Further on Agreement To Leave Mosque

BK0311064693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Nov 3 (AFP)—Kashmiri Muslim militants were expected to leave the Hazratbal mosque here Wednesday following an agreement on a peaceful end to the 19-day siege of the shrine by Indian army troops, officials said.

Senior Kashmir administration official Mehmoodur Rehman said the more than 50 armed separatists had agreed to leave the mosque along with the 60-70 civilians who also have been trapped inside since the night of October 15.

Troops were out in strength enforcing a strict curfew over much of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub of a four-year- old insurgency, to prevent people from converging on the mosque as news of the agreement spread.

Long lines of army vehicles and bullet-proof official cars were seen in the vicinity of the shrine from where journalists—with the exception of a state-owned television crew—were barred, residents said.

The Press Trust of India quoted unnamed reliable sources as saying the shrine had already been "cleaned" of the militants and civilians.

But the dispatch contained no details and officials said they were still waiting for the agreement to go into effect.

Rehman said the breakthrough ending the standoff was reached Tuesday night during talks between government negotiator Wajahat Habibullah and the rebels inside Hazratbal, Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine.

He said militants would be separated from civilians after an identification parade. Experts would inspect a holy relic—a hair believed to come from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad—to certify it had gone unharmed.

"The law will take its course" once the siege ends, and those rebels who do not already face charges of serious crimes are expected to be let off on bail, Rehman said.

A senior official of India's Border Security Force (BSF) said BSF teams had reached the mosque to separate militants and civilians when they come out.

Several senior Kashmir government officials were also at the site along with masked informants sent to identify the militants.

It was not known what had prompted the compromise, which proved elusive during several previous rounds of talks Habibullah and local mediators held with the rebels. [passage omitted]

Kashmiris 'Will Welcome' Siege End

BK0311072693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0721 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 3 (AFP)—A top Kashmiri independence movement leader Farooq Haider said Wednesday that Kashmiris would welcome any move to unconditionally lift the Indian troops' siege of their sacred shrine in Kashmir.

Commenting on a reported government-militant accord on ending the 19-day-old siege of Hazratbal mosque in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, he said: "If the siege is lifted unconditionally, we will welcome it."

Haider, who is a senior leader of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), an important component of about a dozen militant groups waging a bloody freedom struggle against the Indian rule in the northern Himalayan state, said Indians must restore the previous status of Hazratbal.

"The pilgrims must be allowed free access to pray inside the mosque and pay respect to the holy relic," he said, rejecting claims that the place had become a sanctuary for the militants.

The Kashmiris believe that a hair of Prophet Mohammed's beard is preserved in the Hazratbal shrine.

"We had been stressing the siege was illegal and that the Kashmiris would never allow sacrilege of their holy place," Haider said, adding the miseries of the innocent pilgrims trapped inside the mosque must end.

Haider said that by besieging a sacred shrine, the Indians wanted to fuel religious sentiment in the troubled valley so they could "mislead" the Western world into thinking the Kashmiri struggle for the right to self-determination was an Islamic fundamentalist movement.

However, he said several previous attempts to obtain the surrender of militants holed up inside the shrine remained futile.

"Let us hope that Indians will show sincerity this time and the remove barricades around a place of worship," he said.

'Hectic' Efforts Continue

BK0311130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, hectic efforts are on to persuade the militants to come out of the Hazratbal shrine where they are holed up since the 15th of this month. The chief government negotiator, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, was in negotiation with the militants almost throughout the day today. Other senior officers also visited the shrine area. Food was supplied to those inside the shrine as per the procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court yesterday. A doctor also visited the shrine today.

The director general of police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, told newsmen that an alert J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] police guard foiled the bid by some militants to burn a mosque in downtown Srinagar last night. Precautionary curfew continued in eight police station areas of old Srinagar city today.

The Defense Ministry has denied reports appearing in a section of the press about the visit of the army chief, General P.C. Joshi, in Srinagar. An official release in New Delhi said Gen. Joshi did not visit Kashmir.

Iran

Mohtashemi Attacks Hashemi-Rafsanjani Policies

NC0211181293 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 2 (AFP) - A radical Iranian Islamic leader launched a bitter attack on the policies of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday [2 November] and demanded the government's resignation.

In a speech to hundreds of Islamic radicals at Tehran University, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said the depoliticisation of society had led to a "poisonous atmosphere" and "restrictions on the freedom of the sons of the revolution."

The radicals, who were celebrating the 14th anniversary of the seizure of American hostages in Tehran, were banned from rallying outside the former U.S. Embassy by the Interior Ministry.

An official demonstration marking the anniversary is planned for Thursday.

Mohtashemi said the ban was "against the interests of the regime, the republic and the revolution," and added that Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati "and even the government" should resign.

He rejected any idea of rapprochement or negotiations with the United States, saying Iran's "revolutionary forces" would not allow such a "humiliation."

In a letter to Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khamene'i recently, an influential member of the moderate faction in the Iranian parliament, Sa'id-'Ali Raja'i Khorasani, proposed that Iran's leaders hold direct talks with the United States aimed at normalising relations between Tehran and Washington.

Mohtashemi called on Khamene'i to "punish" officials who talked of the need to normalise ties with "the Great Satan", the United States.

Media Criticized for Western-Influenced Programming

LD0311103893 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 3, IRNA—A Majles inquiry committee in a 270-page report submitted to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday, criticized the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) for airing programs influenced by western culture, the daily TEHRAN TIMES reported today.

The committee, appointed last month by Majles Commission for Cultural and Islamic Guidance Affairs, was missioned to evaluate the over-all nature of programs aired by the state-owned radio and television.

The report was presented and read in the Majles open session, presided over by speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, yesterday.

"The members of the commitee directed their objection towards the series of western films during the last five years," said the daily, adding that announcers and program producers of Iranian television came under severe attack of the committee for "their disregard of the proper hijab."

Committee members were Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Movahedi Savoji, Hassan Kamran, former education minister Ali Akbar Parvaresh, Mohamad Reza Mavalizadeh, Mohsen Kuhkan, Ali Yusef Pur and Lotfolah Zareiqanavati.

Judiciary Stresses Need To Fight Corruption

LD0111170593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] During their meeting today, officials of the judicial branch stressed the need for speedy and decisive action against embezzlement and bribery. The meeting also evaluated ways of investigating cases related to the article 49 of the constitution. Judges were instructed to speed up their current operations, while refraining from exceeding the bounds of their own jurisdiction.

After this meeting a joint session of the judicial branch officials was held with members of the Islamic Majles'

judicial commission. The bill on setting up public and revolutionary courts was reviewed.

'Chaotic State' of Public Health Care Viewed

NC3110152593 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Chaotic State of Health Care"]

[Text] In a meeting with a group of Health Ministry officials last week, the Islamic Revolution leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, called attention to the necessity of better research, training and planning in the field of medicine in order to improve the quality of medical services being rendered to the public.

To the Islamic Republic, affordable medical services, accessible to the public at large, is of vital importance since it has been one of the centerpieces of its founding philosophy, i.e. social justice. And one reason why the country's leader gave an audience to the health officials to make recommendations in this connection might have been due to the slow pace and less than mediocre achievement in this most sought-after goal.

If the most elementary aspect of the medical services are drugs, or their availability, then it should be said that this is where Iran is experiencing it most immediate problem. The problem of drugs shortage is presently a most serious issue because there are not enough of them to go around. To deal with the problem and at the same time control their prices, one of the measures which the government has already instituted, with partial success, has been the change of the drug supply system from costly brand names to generic.

But this change of supply system has not alleviated the intensity and magnitude of the problem. And the problem remains as bad as ever.

One reason why drugs are not as available as they ought to be is due to the high costs involved in procuring them. Their imports from abroad consume a lot of badly needed foreign exchange. On the other hand, what is charged for them at retail outlets come nowhere near their real prices. It is sometimes said that improvements in drug supply system would require hike in their prices by several folds.

What is aggravating drug shortage in this country is their possible smuggling to other neighboring countries since they are so cheap in Iran. To the smuggling problem should be added the public's wastage because of their irresponsible use and consumption.

After a patient gets his prescription from a physician, he has to be ready for a lot of running around looking for hardly-found drugs. Patients usually resort to the black market to get what they need at exorbitant prices after having tried a dozen pharmacies.

As far as the government is concerned, it should take the problem of drug shortage very seriously because it can create public resentment and discontent. The public keeps asking: Why are drugs so scarce to come by? Are drugs luxury items to justify their scarcity? If one of the justifications on the part of the relevant government organs on the poor drug supply is the high rate of drug waste by the general public, the solution to the problem, argue a lot of people, is not to keep them out of reach or create scarcity. Because when in need of drugs, the public would buy them at high prices and would waste them just the same.

To deal with the problem of high drug waste, the government must launch an integrated drug use education program for the public. But it is not just the public that needs education. The physicians who prescribe these drugs should also be asked to frugalize on the use of drugs and not prescribe them mechanically. Often in Tehran physicians automatically prescribe drugs, such as antibiotics, because they think their patients have the habit of wanting them. This latter solution—that of calling the doctors' attention to the gravity of the problem on hand—is well within reach. A third possible solution is for the relevant government organs to devise a recycling system by setting up centers where extra drugs would be collected and assorted for reuse. The public should be encouraged to partake in this solution as a humanitarian gesture.

To deal with the problem of mismanagement of state-owned facilities in providing medical services, and to encourage the private sector to play a more active role in this connection, Health Minister Marandi disclosed early this month that the government would lift subsidies on drugs. And that by the end of the second five-year plan hospitals would be run on profit basis.

Privatization has been the trend in many fields and in many countries. But when it comes to the field of health care services it is still a touchy issue in many even developed countries, and no one wants to experiment with them.

To put it simply the state of medical services in Iran is in a mess, and the system, if any, is at best chaotic. Any reform intended to improve the quality of the services given by this field should be well researched and structural. Situational measures or quick fixes for short run gains would aggravate the existing problems.

New Foreign Currency Policy for Imports Announced

LD3110124993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Summary] The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced a new facility for the import of goods for production units. According to a decision taken last night, in order to facilitate the import of goods without foreign currency transfer, the banking network throughout Iran will be selling currency directly to production units.

Transfer of foreign currency abroad will be allowed only from accounts where the currency has originated from abroad.

Further on Hard Currency Procedure

LD3110193493 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—State institutions will be provided with the foreign exchange through banking system and they are not allowed to procure that through the free market, according to a decision of the Central Bank of Iran here on Sunday.

According to a decision made last night by a special committee for controlling foreign exchange rates, all orders for goods and services from abroad should be registered with the Ministry of Commerce.

The committee which convened in the presence of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, ruled that all goods imported to the country should have green leaflets, otherwise they will be considered as contraband and will be subject to relevant laws.

Meanwhile, following announcement of the decision, each US dollar, German mark and UK pound were sold at 1,640, 984 and 2,425 rials respectively today at the free market down by 15, 1 and 15 rials compared to Saturday's closing rates.

Money dealers in Tehran expect more reduction in rate of foreign exchange against the rial.

Nateq-Nuri on 'Full Trust' in Security Forces

LD0211134093 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Monday advised staff of the security department of the law enforcement forces to carry out their duties far from any prejudice. Nateq-Nuri made the remark in a meeting with the officials and commanders of the law enforcement forces. He added that both the Islamic Republic system and the commander-in- chief of the Armed Forces have full trust in the law enforcement personnel.

Imam Khomeyni Port Modernization Completed

LD3110113993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Imam Khomeyni port is ready for the transit of freight to foreign countries following a project to expand the port and equip it with modern technology.

According to an IRNA report, the general manager of the Khuzestan [Province] ports and shipping agency said that talks are being held with several foreign states, including Russia, Japan, and India, on using Imam Khomeyni port for the transit of their goods. Also, following talks between the authorities of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Asian republics, the import and export of some of those republics' goods will be carried out through Imam Khomeyni port in the near future.

Imam Khomeyni port has been equipped with the advanced GRC communications system as well computerized grain-handling equipment. By the end of this year [which began 21 March 1993] a mechanized loading and unloading system—including six cranes with a maneuverability extent of 911 metres—will become operational.

It should be noted that a great part of the state's imports and exports are carried out through this port and last year nine million [metric] tonnes of goods were loaded or unloaded at the port.

High Export Figures From Southern Provinces Noted

LD0311110293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] During the past seven months, 1.7 million tonnes of goods worth 281 million dollars were exported abroad from Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni [Bandar-e Shapur] customs office. The managing director of the port says: Compared to a similar period last year, the export figure shows 128 percent growth in weight and 402 percent in value. He said: The exported goods included iron, cast-iron, building materials, phosphorous, sugar cane molasses, dates, and summer fruits.

Another report indicates that in the month of Mehr this year [23 September to 22 October 93] export figures for non-oil commodities from Bandar-e Bushehr showed an increase of 210 percent in weight and 69 percent in rial value, compared with a similar period last year. According to the manager of Bushehr Province's Standard and Industrial Research Institute, in the month of Mehr 16.94 million kilos of fruit, vegetables, chickpeas, green cumin, and rice, valued at 855,150,000 rials, were given standard certificate and exported abroad.

Also during the past three months, 680 tonnes of goods valued at 347 million rials were exported abroad from the Fars Province. The province's chamber of commerce announced that the exported goods included 71 items of various industrial, mining, and agricultural products. Compared to a similar period last year, this year's export figures from the Fars Province show 50 percent reduction in volume, but the value of the goods increased by 90 percent.

The Province of Kerman exported 4,971,798 kilos of non-oil goods to various countries in the month of Mehr. The exported goods included pistachios, dried licorice roots, and dried figs, valued at over 6,766,590,000 rials.

New Governor of Kohkiluye, Boyer Ahmad Appointed

LD0111172693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Interior Minister Besharati, who is in Yasuj, attended a session of the Administrative Council of the province this afternoon, during which he appointed Samad Raja' as the new governor general of Kohkiluye and Boyer Ahmad.

Khamene'i Scores Supporters of U.S. Dialogue

LD0311113293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Addressing a gathering of thousands of university students and school pupils today, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, made important and crucial remarks on the occasion of 4 November, the national day of struggle against Global Arrogance. In his remarks he considered the conquering of America's nest of spies by students as a courageous and vigilant act. He said: We approve of what the students did, and this is not merely because of our obedience to Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, but it is also because of our own feelings, vision, and logic.

The guardian of the cause of the world Muslims [Vali-e Amr-e Moslemin] revealed America's hypocritical ploys in expressing its willingness to conduct negotiations with Iran, and said: While we do not want to have relations with America, America is posing preconditions for restoring relations with Iran. There is a huge difference between what we say and what the Americans say.

The eminent leader of the Islamic revolution stated that America wants to conduct negotiations with Iran in order to mar the splendid image of our great imam and the Islamic revolution, and also to induce a general state of pessimism among the oppressed nations of Asia, Africa, and even the Muslims of America and Europe.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i considers those inside the country who promote negotiations with America as simpleminded, fearful, unaware, and apolitical elements. He said: America is the same dictator which was forced out of the country empty-handed by the Muslim nation of Iran, and there is no need for us to negotiate with dictators.

Nateq-Nuri: Prospects for U.S. Ties Nonexistent

LD0311113393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] At today's Majles open session Speaker Nateq-Nuri paid tribute to the day of God, the 13th of Aban [4 November], calling that great day a turning point in the history of the Islamic revolution. He said: The brave action of the Muslim students following the line of the Imam in occupying the U.S. den of espionage shattered the myth of America's invincibility and proved that one can stand up to hegemonists.

The Majles speaker said: The Imam's path continues today as authoritatively and strongly as ever, under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution. He added: Our struggle against America is not a slogan, it stems from our beliefs and is inspired by the Koran's verses. He stressed: So long as America's hegemonistic spirit remains we will continue our struggle against the Great Satan.

The head of the Legislative branch described as insoluble the differences between Iran and America. He said: Because of America's immutable hegemonistic and aggressionist spirit and the spread of the Islamist wave in Muslim countries, which has worried America and threatened her interests, the possibility of any form of relations and talks with America will never exist. This is because the Imam's line and our ideology do not accept any relations with hegemony.

U.S. 'Not Ready' for Relations With Tehran

LD0211202993 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The structure of the United Nations is not in proportion to the current situation of the world, and there is a serious question inside the U.N. as to what changes should take place to enable this world body to meet the current global needs, Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi has said.

Kharrazi in an interview with the Persian daily 'KEYHAN' said changes in the Security Council, affiliated bodies, internal committees and the secretariat itself are among the topics under discussion by the member states.

"The United Nations is very much like a political club, where influence on others' votes is prevalent," he said, adding that advanced and industrialized countries try to buy the votes of the weaker countries through various means. Political, economic and cultural instruments are the means employed by the industrialized countries in order to achieve their goals, he added.

To a question from KEYHAN that the United Nations is apparently trampling the national sovereignty of countries whenever it wants, and is entering the scene under the name of 'peace-keeping forces,' Kharrazi replied that the U.N. is now trying to legislate such interventions in the critical regions through 'peace-keeping' forces for what they call preventing massacre and bloodshed. "Their real objective is political, however, they give it a moral and humanitarian framework," he added.

Questioned whether the U.N. has turned into a tool in the hand of the U.S., Kharrazi said the U.S. intends to

manipulate the world body as a tool for intervention in different parts of the world. However, he added that it was not so simple, and there is a contradiction among the north countries, each seeking its own interests. "The world is a scene for challenge and the U.S. cannot simply turn the U.N. into a tool in its hand.

Re-structuring of the Security Council is of special importance, and the south countries believe that the number of temporary members should increase so that the balance would be in favour of the non- permanent members, said Kharrazi.

On the proposal to give industrial giants Germany and Japan a permanent seat at the Security Council, he said the idea is being seriously pursued, and moreover proposals have also been made to give permanent status to countries like India, Brazil and Nigeria.

"However, the proposal does not include the right of exercising veto. The Americans talk about a mere permanent membership, but Germany has rejected this and also wants the right of veto, while Japan too likes to enter the council with a veto right."

Other powers like Russia, Britain and France do not agree with this, and China has made no comment, Kharrazi added.

Referring to the issue of Bosnia, Kharrazi termed it "very complicated", and said Americans wanted to back Muslims not on humanitarian grounds but out of competition with others, however, they could not succeed.

"It might have been an outcome of Clinton's weak diplomacy, or European interests which stipulated no help [to] Muslims. The Americans liked to prevent the Serbs under cover of the United Nations, in order to have a sort of competition with Europeans, but the Europeans did not allow them to do so, and this is an example that Europe will not allow the U.S. to do anything it wants," he added.

On the U.S. role in international political, economic and cultural organizations, the Iranian envoy pointed out that the U.S. being an influential member of the Security Council, uses each and every means to achieve its goal.

He noted that the U.S. traditionally holds many key posts at the U.N. secretariat and since it hosts the world body's headquarters and provides a major share of its budget, Washington always tries to impose its views on the various affiliated oranizations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

For example, he said, the U.S. opposes World Bank loans to Iran since it thinks that this loan would boost Iran's economic potential, and believes that if Islamic Iran succeeds in settling its economic problems, it would turn into a regional power opposing the U.S.

"Therefore, the U.S. prevents any civilian move, and even tries to interfere with deals between Iran and other countries in order to prevent Iran's economy from boosting. The United Nations is a club not a house of justice, and therefore every one tries to achieve its own goal."

KEYHAN posed the question: "You referred to the superior role of the U.S. in world politics, and some observers and politicians have used similar views as a pretext for resumption of relations with the U.S., at a time the leader of the Islamic revolution has explicitly rejected relations with the U.S., what is your opinion."

Kharrazi replied that relations between countries is not a bad thing, provided they are based on equality and mutual respect, and not domination of one side by the other. "Our policy is that we establish relations with any country whom we recognize, however, the U.S. is a special case.

"Since the U.S. considers itself a dominating power, it is not ready to have relations with Iran on the basis of equality, mutual respect and recognition. The late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, made a similar remark that if the U.S. gives up its domineering nature and wants to have healthy realtions with Iran on the basis of mutual respect, we have no other thing to say, however, the ground for such relations is negative."

He said the present administration in Washington uses each and every tool to strike at Iran, and naturally in light of such hostile atmosphere, nothing can be said on relations, unless such policies are changed, to enable the two sides to maintain relations on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

On the importance of Iran's role for the U.S., Kharrazi said that even the U.S. statesmen do not have any doubt that Iran is an important country, and the huge mass of enmity (against Iran) reveals Iran's strategic situation.

"Americans have announced readiness for negotiations, but we are not ready since we are sure that they do not have good intention," he added.

When KEYHAN pointed out the existence of economic relations with the U.S., Kharrazi underlined that Iran has no ties with the U.S. government, and reasoned that many American companies are interested in having relations with Iran for the sake of their profits, but their administration opposes this. For example the Boeing company lobbied with the U.S. Administration to allow it to sell passenger planes to Iran, however, Clinton's administration called on Saudi Arabia to purchase planes from Boeing in order to save it from bankruptcy. "There is a serious opposition between the interests of American companies and the administration."

On talks between the Iranian and Egyptian foreign ministers on the sideline of the 48th U.N. General Assembly in New York, and whether there is any likelihood of resumption of Tehran-Cairo ties, Kharrazi said grounds are not yet prepared for the resumption of relations. He added that Iran and Egypt are two important countries in the region, and have common interests despite their current disputes. "It was natural that the foreign ministers of the two

countries had a meeting, and it should not be considered a strange thing. The meeting and the talks were not the first of its kind, and they (Egyptians) express keenness in many conferences to talk with us, and we talk to them in order to explain our stances."

Kharrazi said it is the responsibility of the political body to take the opportunity to explain its stances for other countries and know their positions in return. "There was nothing on the promotion of ties (between Iran and Egypt), since the two sides knew the situation of the relations, however, some discussions were held on a series of regional and international issues," he concluded.

Public Urged To Join 'Global Arrogance' Rallies

LD0211174593 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—More than 200 Majles deputies here Tuesday urged the nation to participate in the nationwide rallies of Thursday, November 4, marking the 14th anniversary of takeover of the 'den of espionage', former U.S. embassy in Tehran.

In a letter read in the open session of the Majles, the deputies said, "Constant campaign against and negation of domination seeking tendencies of the U.S.-led global arrogance is an inseparable part of the Islamic revolution and an unalterable principle of the Islamic Republic."

The deputies stressed that the wrath of Iranian nation against arrogance and their anti-U.S. campaign will continue till the annihilation of oppression.

Following the takeover of the den of espionage by Muslim students following the line of the late Imam Khomeyni, November 4, has been named the National Day of Campaign Against the Global Arrogance.

Daily Encourages 'Anti-U.S. Morale'

LD0311094593 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—A morning daily urged the Islamic Republic authorities to seriously confront with "U.S. agents trying to pave the way for the revival of the U.S. 'diabolic hegemony' over the country."

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial Tuesday [as received] commented on nationwide anti-U.S. rallies, to be held Thursday, which marks the 14th anniversary of the former U.S. Embassy takeover.

"The takeover of the 'spy den' was a prelude to the collapse of the U.S. diabolic dominance over Iran which resulted in putting an end to the presence of U.S. spies who, under the pretext of diplomatic activities, were engaged in acts of espionage," wrote the article.

It said: "Although the disgraceful file of the U.S. is now closed forever, there are still some people who pretend to be sympathizers of people and the Islamic Republic system but in fact support U.S. objectives on behalf of their own interest."

It is quite clear that November 4, National Day for Campaign Against Global Hegemony, will frustrate vicious attempts of supporters of the U.S. and will disappoint U.S. advocates forever, noted the editorial.

The paper said agents of the U.S. intended to pretend that campaign against U.S. has faded away and, therefore, the situation is ripe to enter a new phase to establish relations with Washington.

Urging the dismissal of such agents in any position, the daily called on Majlis officials to "isolate" such elements, if there was any, in the "house of the nation".

"This", stressed the daily, "would further prove that the stand of the majority of Majlis deputies, as well as the Iranian nation, is not to compromise with the U.S."

The paper concluded by saying that "glorious November 4 anti-U.S. rallies is the best response to those who think anti-U.S. morale has been weakened among the Iranian people."

Kazakh Nuclear Expertise Reportedly Sought

NC0311114293 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 1 Nov 93 p 12

[Text] During his visit to Kazakhstan, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani approached Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev with a request to send Kazakh nuclear experts to Iran to help develop its nuclear capability.

Engineer Reza Amrollahi, Iranian deputy president for atomic affairs and chairman of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, has held a meeting for that purpose with Kazakh nuclear experts.

Over 37,000 Azerbaijani Refugees Enter Country

LD0211180393 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Khoda Afarin, Ardebil Prov., Nov. 2, IRNA—The number of Azeri refugees crossing into Iran via the border River Aras reached 37,027 by Monday night, a local official at Khoda Afarin Governorate said today. The official said that a large number of refugees who fled to this border region from Zangalan region in the Azerbaijan Republic were now waiting for vehicles to transfer them to Imishli refugee camp within the Azeri territory.

Residents of this border town took in a large number of the refugees, however, the rest had to stay outdoors braving cold and rainy weather. According to a relief worker, no sooner had a group of refugees been transferred to Imishli Camp set up by Iran on Azeri territory than another group arrived. This has created difficulties for relief workers who are working round the clock transferring refugees to Imishli.

Some 4,259 vehicles some of which belong to the Republic of Azerbaijan are now carrying refigees from Khoda Afarin to Imishli refugees camp. Presently, between 7,000 to 10,000 Azeri refugees fleeing the Armenian military offensives against Azeri towns arrive in Khoda Afarin daily, some with cattle. Some 18,533 heads of cattle have been brought to this region by Azeri refugees.

Meanwhile, Baku radio reported today that the advancing Armenian forces have driven 60,000 of the residents of the war-torn region of Zangalan out of their homes.

Plight of Refugees Examined

LD3010154093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] In the wake of the Armenian forces' advance within the Azerbaijan Republic's territory, a large number of war refugees, who have no option but to flee the troublespots, are trying to cross the Aras river and enter the Islamic Republic of Iran's territory.

The attacks by Armenian forces, which have gained new intensity during recent weeks, have so far led to the homelessness of more that 900,000 Azerbaijanis. Furthermore, it is expected that if nothing is done quickly to halt the clashes and end the war, the number of refugees will increase even further. So far, a great deal of effort has been made by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society to settle these refugees within the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, the large number of refugees and the transportation and logistical problems inhibiting their settlement show that to remedy the misery of the oppressed refugees of Azerbaijan, there is dire need for international cooperation and faster and more effective action by the United Nations and other international bodies, as well as the aid-donor countries. For this purpose, to halt the continuation of the military aggression of Armenian forces and the Karabakh separatists, the UN Security Council has been urged to convene an extraordinary meeting as quickly as possible to deal with the fact that the conflict is spreading to the southern parts of the Azerbaijan Republic.

The problem of war refugees has currently become a regional issue, and many countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Middle East are suffering the consequences. The scope of these human tragedies is too vast to be dealt with effectively by any of these countries on their own, and they cannot meet the housing, hygiene, and nutrition needs of these refugees. In addition, the factors responsible for these human tragedies, whereby thousands of people lose their homes and shelters, must be removed altogether in any way possible. Such a process will require the collective participation and cooperation of all countries to resolve regional conflicts and disputes.

Although the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and other international bodies have testified that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a shining performance record in providing services to refugees, no single country, on its own, is able to deal fully with the refugee problem or hope to resolve it completely. The UN and the other international organizations as well as the regional countries must seriously participate in such a process.

The aggressions of the Karabakh forces with the backing of the Armenian Republic, which has led to the complete occupation of parts of the southern and southwestern territory of the Azerbaijan Republic, have contravened all international laws and norms. These aggressions have also created obstacles to achieving any peaceful solution to the conflict.

As a first step toward a comprehensive solution to the Karabakh problem, the occupied lands in the Azerbaijan Republic must be evacuated quickly, and peaceful solutions must replace the aggressive methods deployed at the present time. This is exactly at what the Islamic Republic of Iran's numerous efforts have been aimed. This is because the occupation of the territory of an independent and sovereign country and the rendering of its citizens as homeless will not only yield no durable political gain, but it will also discredit the aggressors eventually.

Relief Aid 'Insufficient'

LD0211183293 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan), Nov. 2, IRNA—Iran today urged international organizations to contribute generously towards relief assistance for Azeris displaced by the Armenian offensive against their homeland. Director-general for expatriate and refugee affairs at the Interior Ministry, Ahmad Hoseyni, terming as "insufficient" international aid to the Azeri refugees, said Iran has undertaken the task of accomodating over 100,000 displaced Azeris in relief camps.

Hoseyni, who made the remark after inspecting the refugee camps set up by Iran at the Imishli region of the Azerbaijan Republic, underscored continuation of Iran's relief aid to the refugees. He said that they are in dire need of help and international relief organizations should pay more attention to them. Iran is only a donor country and as part of its humanitarian assistance is providing the war refugees with foodstuffs, lodging and other basic requirements, clarified Hoseyni.

However, he added, the prime responsibility of supporting the refugees lies with the Azerbaijani Government.

Hoseyni along with the Iranian ambassador to Baku 'Ali Asghar Nahavandian, on Monday also visited sites that are being prepared for setting up more refugee camps in Imishli.

Editorial Examines Iranian-German Relations

NC3110161293 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY EDITION) in English 21 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial by Afraz: "An Opportunity for Germany"]

[Text] The United States and Britain are so enraged over Irano- German cooperation in diverse areas that they have gone public with their so-called protests. It seems that all hell broke loose following talks last week between our minister of information, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian and Bonn's chancellery minister, Bernd Schmidbauer and the chiefs of German internal and external intelligence agencies.

For the time being at least, the German government has taken the unusual step of telling the Clinton White House and 10 Downing Street to let Bonn mind its own business. It has insisted the high level contact solely helped serve humanitarian objectives. To get the message straight Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman has said discussions and exchange of views between the two country's information services will continue.

While almost everyone in Germany and other parts of Europe (of course the frail British political establishment not included) are more than happy over America's fading influence in their affairs, they are yet at a loss to know why Washington and London should be so angry. One western official pointed out last week that the latest U.S.-British outburst is a natural response if studied in the context of those two country's arrogant approach to international affairs.

It must be pointed out that German unification, its economic and political clout in Europe and the developing countries, Bonn's emerging pragmatism with regard to sound and mutually beneficial international relations, and finally its reasonably cordial ties with Islamic Iran does not appeal to Anglo-U.S. tastes. The latest frustration and fury becomes compounded if one brings into focus the fact that for more than 14 years the U.S. and U.K. have not had formal relations with Tehran. London's diplomatic mission here is open but it is as effective as any ordinary shopkeeper—open or closed is the last thing that matters to our people and honest policymakers.

On the other hand, German-Iranian cooperation has developed, slowly but steadily, especially after the guns fell silent in the 1980-1988 Iraqi-imposed war. In very many areas, movement towards a better understanding of each other has been registered which will surely be in the legitimate interest of the two peoples. Bilateral agendas in the past five years have reflected upon trade, agricultural, scientific, technological, social, cultural, political and recently security and intelligence issues. As a matter of policy, the Rafsanjani administration has held free and frank negotiations with Chancellor Kohl's government, and for that matter, other European leaders on bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The bottom line is that Tehran is willing and ready to exercise its international and regional obligations in the framework of its declared principles enshrined in the teaching of Islam.

In today's realigned world, the Germans are in a position to say no to unwanted American pressures in the making and executing of their domestic and foreign agendas. The U.S. military presence on German territory, disliked by the free and disciplined German masses from the outset, has long lost its significance. The intermittent reminders (by the U.S.) of World War II atrocities by Hitler's Third Reich have nothing to do with today's Germany. The U.S. and Britain will have to find other ways to venture into Bonn's affairs. Intimidation is a weapon of the past.

As far as Iran is concerned, we are aware of the obvious need to maintain a correct frequency in our foreign relations. We are also not unaware that there is a long way to go, and with determination we will do so. Let America and Britain be angry and expose their incendiary inner self. It is Iran's process of creating and expanding healthy and mutually beneficial ties with the free world that Washington and London intend to derail. The Islamic Republic has chosen its path and will proceed accordingly, alone or with assistance from friendly nations. Whether President Clinton or Prime Minister John Major like it or not is their business

Iron, Steel Accord Signed With India

BK0111161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] India and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] providing greater cooperation between the two countries in the iron and steel sectors. The MOU was signed by the visiting steel secretary, Mr. Musa Raza, and the Iranian deputy minister of mines and metals, Mr. Ali Shekar-Riz, in Tehran today. Mr. Raza also held discussions with the Iranian minister for mines and metals, Mr. Hoseyn Mahluji, and other senior officials on ways of consolidating and enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the steel sector.

Economic Cooperation Pact Signed With Bangladesh

LD3010113893 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, oct. 30, (IRNA)—Construction Jihad Minister of Iran Gholamreza Foruzesh returned home from a 3-day visit to Bangladesh Friday night after signing a letter of understanding for bilateral economic cooperation.

Foruzesh arrived in Bangladesh, at the invitation of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman to take part in the first joint economic commission held in Dhaka last Wednesday.

The 36-article agreement focuses mainly on cooperarion in such fields as trade, agriculture, industry and rural development.

According to the document, Tehran will cooperate with Dhaka on implementation of industrial projects in iron, steel, cast iron and cement fields.

The two countries will also have bilateral cooperation in oil, gas and petrochemical industries as well as in the establishment of power plants in Bangladesh.

In return, Bangladesh announced readiness to admit Iranian students in agricultural and fishing training centers at Master of Arts level.

The two sides also called for the opening of bank branches in their respective countries to facilitate trade transactions, as well as for Tehran-Dhaka direct flights and, for a session by representatives of Iran-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce.

Earlier on Thursday, Foruzesh told a press conference that Tehran would host the second Tehran-Dhaka joint economic commission next year.

While in Dhaka, Foruzesh met with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and a number of other high-ranking officials of the country.

Nateq-Nuri, Spanish Envoy Stress Revival of Ties

LD0111170093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Belloso, the Spanish ambassador in Tehran, met and conferred with Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri today.

At the meeting, referring to the historical and cultural ties between Iran and Spain, the Majles speaker stressed the importance of reviving cultural agreements and expanding cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The Spanish ambassador described the ties between Iran and Spain as good. He said his country respects Iran's Islamic revolution and will never retreat from that stance. He also declared Madrid's readiness for the expansion of relations with Tehran, particularly in industrial matters and barter exchanges.

At the meeting the two sides stressed the necessity of expanding parliamentary relations and exchanging parliamentary delegations between the two countries.

*HAMSHAHRI's Publication Privileges Revoked

94LA0011A London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] The license of HAMSHAHRI monthly was revoked by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance. The reason for the revocation of the license has not been announced, but KEYHAN (published in Tehran) considers the main reason to be "the above-mentioned magazine being in step with cultural invasion." The licensed owner of HAMSHAHRI was Golamhoseyn Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran.

KEYHAN wrote: The "heavy cost" of the monthly journal, every issue of which cost more than 120 tomans but sold for 30 tomans, was provided for through the City Hall budget.

In the meantime, the fate of HAMSHAHRI newspaper, which is also published by the City Hall of Tehran and has a large readership, is not certain. KEYHAN wrote that the City Hall pays a "subsidy" for every issue of this newspaper, which costs 35 tomans but is sold at only 10 tomans.

*Writers' Society Levels Complaints Against KEYHAN

94LA0011C London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] On the basis of a complaint by the Islamic Republic Radio and Television, a member of the former Writers' Society, and another group of judges and writers, the director of the KEYHAN establishment will be put on trial. Last Week, Mehdi Nasiri, the director of KEYHAN newspaper, went before Penal Court 2, Branch 162, to respond to the complaint of the former director of the Justice Department of Eslamabad-e Gharb.

The Penal Court announced: The case of the director of the KEYHAN establishment, which was started by a complaint by Al-e To'meh, the famous merchant and former director of the Eslamabad Justice Department, is being examined, and the date of the trial will soon be announced.

Simultaneously, two other cases in connection with insults by KEYHAN newspaper to the radio and television and Gholamhoseyn Salemi, a member of the Writers' Society, are going through procedures at the Justice Department.

The complaint of the Iranian Voice and Vision against KEYHAN newspaper is the result of the publication of an article protesting the "Dagger and Corn-Poppy" serial. The complaint by Gholamhoseyn Salemi against the Writers' Society arose from the publication of the article, "Cafe-Frequenting Viet Cong."

In the next few days, complaints by Dr. Reza Baraheni; Semin Behbahani; Yazdi, the head to the Judicial Branch; and a number of judges of the Supreme Court against the director of KEYHAN are supposed to be submitted to the court.

*KEYHAN Editor in Chief Interrogated Again

94LA0011F London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] Mehdi Nasiri, the KEYHAN's editor in chief, was once again interrogated last week based on a complaint by a Justice Department judge. Mehdi Nasiri was summoned to the court due to the ruling of a Tehran general court judge and responded to the questions of the assistant prosecutor of Branch 12. KEYHAN has published the text of the report according to which the editor in chief of the

newspaper was summoned to the court. This report concerns the arrest for the second time of the members of two gangs that produced and distributed alcoholic beverages. In conclusion, KEYHAN wrote: The light penalty that was set the first time by the judge for these individuals encouraged them to repeat the offense.

* Reza'i on Conspiracy Against Islamic Republic

94LA0011H London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Oct 93 p 1

[Interview with Mohsen Reza'i, commander general of the Guard Corps, by RESALAT; place and date not given]

[Text] Mohsen Reza'i, the commander general of the Guard Corps, in an interview with RESALAT newspaper, said that a large conspiracy is under way against the Islamic Republic. Stating that the United States and Israel are the main implementors of such a conspiracy, he added: Egypt and Saudi Arabia have become U.S. allies in this conspiracy to be put into practice.

In his opinion, such a plot has existed for many years. But, "for the Westerners, it was very difficult to enter the region before Saddam's invasion of Kuwait." Because the Persian Gulf war provided the "excuse" for the presence of the United States in the region, he called it "treason" and added: With the "great treason" that he committed against the region, Saddam Husayn also rendered the "greatest service" to the West.

Mohsen Reza'i also considered the Middle East peace talks and the agreement between Israel and the PLO a part of the "vast conspiracy" that is under way against the Islamic Republic: "Westerners at the present are trying to solve the Arab-Israeli problem. Then they will try to make an alliance between a number of Arab countries and Israel against us...the issue of claim of the three islands...is in line with the same conspiracy."

The commander of the Guard Corps did not consider a series of "military operations" by the United States and the West against Iran out of the question and added that this does not mean that they will start a war with the Islamic Republic. He said: "If they do not deal with us militarily, it does not mean that they will not use military tactics against us."

In his opinion, even though Arafat by signing the treaty with Israel "has attempted political suicide," it has brought the conspiracy against the Islamic Republic to a "new phase." "Israel's plan is that after signing the agreement with the PLO, to sign agreements with Jordan and Syria and then open its embassies in the Islamic countries. In fact, this is the issue of the political stabilization of Zionism and an aim of the conspiracy of the West. The Americans are determined to carry out this political stabilization.

Even though the commander of the Guard Corps confessed implicitly that the disintegration of the bipolar world has narrowed the field of maneuvers for the Islamic Republic, now the authentic Islamic movements will be able to stop U.S. "expansionism."

*Ayatollah Montazeri Undergoes Kidney Operation

94LA0011I London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] Ayatollah Montazeri, the former deputy of Ayatollah Khomeyni and for whom support these days can mean prison and even execution, underwent a kidney operation this week in the Qa'em ol-Anbia' Hospital in Tehran. Sa'id, the son of Ayatollah Montazeri, who provided this news to the news agencies, described his father's condition as satisfactory. It is still not quite clear whether one of Montazeri's kidneys was removed because of infection or he was given a kidney transplant.

Last month, suffering from pain, Ayatollah Montazeri was transferred to the Qa'em ol-Anbia' Hospital in Tehran, but security officials prevented him from being hospitalized. He was then transferred to a hospital in Qom, but later, with the mediation of the influential clerics of Qom, he came to Tehran, and his treatment continued under the supervision of Tehran physicians.

While the illness of Ayatollah Montazeri and his operation are the subject of discussion in Qom, Mahmud Kheyrollahi, a close friend of Mehdi Hashemi, who is the close relative of Ayatollah Montazeri, was condemned to nine years in prison and 70 lashes in Esfahan. According to KEYHAN in Tehran, Mohammad Reza Rashdi, the special prosecutor of clerics in Esfahan, said in this regard: After Ayatollah Montazeri was dismissed as the deputy of Ayatollah Khomeyni, Kheyrollahi published and distributed books, pamphlets, and publications related to him in various places. The special prosecutor of clerics said: Mahmud Kheyrollahi was condemned to six months in exile in Yazd, but in that city, too, he engaged in widespread propaganda in support of Ayatollah Montazeri and Mehdi Hashemi.

* Interior Minister on Bahrain, Tonbs

94LA0011E London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the interior minister of the Islamic Republic, considered Iran's relinquishing the ownership of Bahrain and agreeing to the independence of this Arab island as a link in the chain of secessions, which has damaged the territorial integrity of Iran from the time of the murder of Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar to the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Speaking in a gathering of the commanders of the Guard Corps, he considered the protection of the territorial integrity of Iran among the "glories of the regime of the Islamic Republic" and added: "After the murder of Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar until the victory of the Islamic revolution, at every juncture a part of the territory of Islamic Iran was seceded due to the incompetence of the rulers from the body of the country, the last part of which was the loss of Bahrain during the shah's time," whereas

in the Islamic Republic, "in order to retake only one hill, we offered 1,000 martyrs, and this is a great glory."

But he said, at the same time, one of the solutions to the problems of the Islamic Republic is "expanding relations with neighboring countries."

It is worthy to remember that the National Iranian Consultative Assembly agreed in 1971 to the independence of Bahrain after the people of Bahrain voted for the independence of their country in a referendum. But, in exchange for the independence of Bahrain, the shah was able to prove Iran's rule over the three islands of Tonbs and Abu Musa. Iran's rule over these islands remained until recently, when the Arabs once again claim its rule and ownership.

On the other hand, some northern parts of Iran, Caucasus, were lost in the course of a series of wars between Iran and Russia during the rule of the Qajars.

Pakistan

'Harsh' U.S. Tactics Seen in Textile Talks

BK0211105593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 2 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "They Have A Point?]

[Text] Some understanding has been arrived at the recent talks on trade in textiles between the US and Pakistan, and the finishing touches to a new agreement will hopefully be given by mid-November. Ms Bhutto pleaded the case for liberal concessions to Pakistan in this sector, but the US officials were rather reticent about the question of penalties proposed by them on circumvention. In response, the Pakistan side has requested the US officials to allow them to examine this alleged malpractice so as not to penalise genuine exporters. Pakistan has in the past already paid heavy penalties for what is alleged to be trade malpractices. US customs authorities are said to have detected certain shipments of Pakistan origin which reached US ports supposedly from a third country. Not permissable under the existing bilateral accord, the US has threatened to deduct the shipped quantity from Pakistan's quota provided the accusation is established. The latest quota cut was effected by the US on October 19 two days after a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed, and according to which Pakistan had accepted a position of establishing its innocence in such instances, rather than the US proving the violation of the agreement. Contrary to what certain business circles felt, the MOU terms were an improvement on the previous practice under which the US would deduct quotas on a unilateral basis.

These talks are of vital importance since the textile sector itself accounts for a large portion of our entire economy's export for any given year. It provides employement to a large number of people and contributes directly to the growth rate of the economy. But there is no avoiding the fact that the US is the second largest producer of cotton in the world, while the citadel of free trade advocates the imposition of quotas, obviously to protect its own textile industry. No matter how "successful" our government may be in amicably agreeing on the issue with the U.S., trade in textiles is not going to be free for a considerable period of time to come. Developed countries, in the final analysis, would prefer to see the only competitive industry of the developing world restricted until such time when new technologies emerge which would eliminate the comparative advantage of the Third World in this area. Although the government ought to take action against those exporters who have been indulging in malpractices, the US has all along been overly harsh with Pakistan on the issue.

Operational Phase of Air Force Exercise Begins

BK0211152193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] The operational phase of the annual exercise of the Pakistan Air Force, High Mark-93, has started. All the combat and air defense units are participating in the maneuvers during which the entire range of tactical operations are being carried out under realistic battlefield conditions. The High Mark-93 exercise aims at creating an environment in which air operations can be conducted to provide realistic and role-oriented training to combat air crew, fighter controllers, and other personnel of the Pakistan Air Force.

Former U.S. Envoy Oakley To Lobby for Islamabad

BK0111130593 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 31 Oct 93 p 7

[Text] Karachi—Former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Robert B. Oakley has been appointed as Pakistan's lobbyist in the United States. His appointment was made by former acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi during the final days of his tenure. From the report appearing in the U.S. based weekly 'PAKISTAN CALLING,' it has been disclosed that Pakistan will pay $250,000 per year as salary to Oakley. Former Acting Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar's hand is behind this appointment, as he will be given a fellowship in Oakley's International Institute of Peace in Washington as a reward for Oakley's appointment. According to the paper, it is not yet clear whether or not Benazir Bhutto's government will utilize the services of (Feel and Company) which is now working for Pakistan. The paper has also disclosed that the company was appointed by former Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, whose son was given a senior post in the organization. According to the paper, it will not be easy for Benazir Bhutto to revise the appointment of Oakley, who is presently discharging his duties in Somalia as President Clinton's special emissary. During her last tenure, Benazir Bhutto appointed Mark Siegal as Pakistan's lobbyist in the United States.